



WVS Vets Share Farm Animal Medicine with Latvians

A few weeks ago, Waupun Veterinary Services helped World Wide Sires welcome a group of Latvians to the Waupun area.

The Latvian visitors included veterinarians, consultants, and farmers who traveled to Wisconsin from the small country located on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Estonia. It's a small little country adjacent to Russia. The farmers that visited came from all sizes of farms from 50 head herd to 300 head. They were invited to learn about standards that we have on our farms as well as shown demonstrations on some of our local farms.

During their visit they spent one day with Dr. Ralph who explained to them the importance of managing transition cows. The next day Dr. Wade discussed how to raise a heifer calf from day one to freshening. Some of the demonstrations they were shown we take for granted, such as how to check urine pH, shake out TMR samples to see how sortable a close-up ration is, or how to pull blood from a calf.

It's remarkable to see how advanced our farms are when we compare them to farms across the world. Hopefully, what they learned in Waupun can be taken back with them to change their farms for the better and come closer to the great management that we have here (seeing Russia doesn't get greedy for their land too).



Dr. Wade is pictured above ultrasounding calf lungs while the visitors from Latvia look at the image of the ultrasound on the iPads. Dr. Ralph explains what they're looking at.

Observing Farms during North Dakota Hunting Trip

In late October, Jeff and I traveled to North Dakota to hunt pheasants and ducks. We didn't get a lot of shooting and I did a lot of missing which can be frustrating for my dogs. For me, seeing the farms and talking to local farmers is educational and makes me appreciate Wisconsin.

I enjoyed an afternoon coffee with a local farmer that raised beef cows and I got him talking about beef breeds. Two years ago, he sold black angus calves at 400 lbs and red angus calves at about the same size. He took almost \$100 deduction on the red angus calves. I had brought up the lack of Hereford cows on pasture. The simple answer is the black angus breed association has done a phenomenal job with marketing.

Corn and beans looked fantastic, although the corn plant density is way down from ours. I was told there was about 23,000 seeds per acre, but walking through combined fields there was a lot of stover. When I ended up cutting through standing corn, it was as tall as corn around Waupun. Land prices I was told are about \$4,000 per acre. The basis on corn is crazy, cash corn was about \$4.00. There are no ethanol plants out there, just lots of windmills.

For years, I've watched farmers pile corn on the ground in the Dakotas because of lack of storage space, trucks and rail service. When I say on the ground, not even a tarp is used. The picture below shows soybeans on the ground. I don't know if there was a tarp used. This pile was huge and it was right after a snow we got, so it's not the best picture.

The farmer we had coffee with was on the local school board. He said that the school district had one teacher for grades K-12 with some grades having no students at all. We stayed at a home in town that had four bedrooms, with a brick front, an attached garage and a garage out back. It was an older home, maybe 80 years old. The owner of the house said he bought it two years ago for \$2,000. That's right, I didn't miss a zero.



Pictured above is a typical abandoned farmstead, which is what at least ¾ of all the farmsteads are. It can be bleak driving along and seeing nothing inhabited for a couple miles. At right is a large pile of soybeans.



MILK QUALITY

Waupun Veterinary Services, LLC - Your Progressive Dairy Partner since 1958

Economic Impact of Mastitis: What is it costing?

What does Mastitis cost? There are various numbers thrown around as to what a case of mastitis costs a producer.

Clinical cases of mastitis must include treatment costs, milk production losses, discarded milk loss, extra labor costs, and premature culling losses. In the U.S. it is estimated that each case of clinical mastitis can cost the producer from between \$128.00-\$444.00 per case.

The cost of a clinical case of mastitis is estimated to be the highest in the first 30 days of a lactation mainly from the increased chance of culling. In an article by Fernanda Ferreria and Daniela Bruno they estimated that a clinical case of mastitis in a 1,000 cow dairy costs \$301 if waste milk is fed to calves and \$343 if waste milk is not used. Subclinical mastitis cases may result in 10-20% less production over a lactation per cow per lactation. Subclinical mastitis results in higher bulk tank SCC which results in less quality premiums from the milk processors. Pam Ruegg estimates the overall product loss in the U.S. is \$110 per cow annually.

An article from Penn State extension in December of 2022 stated that high SCC milk is not desirable for milk processors because it reduces the shelf life of dairy products and diminishes the

quality and quantity of milk protein, in return reducing cheese yields.

It has been shown that cheese yields from an individual cow are affected when SCC exceeds 100,000 cells/mL. Cheese yields of milk comingled from a group of cows are impacted more by the proportion of cows with SCC >100,000 cells/mL than by the bulk tank SCC average. Most milk cooperatives pay premiums for higher quality milk.

In the past year producers have seen these premiums slowly erode, but achieving the highest premium available can make or break some dairies. Quality premiums are a great opportunity for producers to increase profitability and are one of the few ways to impact the price paid for milk.

Farms that are not maximizing this opportunity are missing out on an important source of income. Controlling subclinical mastitis and producing lower SCC milk represents a potential profit opportunity associated with both increased production and increased milk price through premiums. Most farms can justify an investment in improving their milk quality program, simply by the return of real dollars in quality premiums.

Consider Performing Strip Yield Test to Avoid Overmilking of Cows

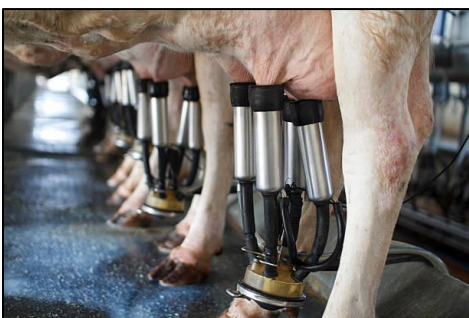
One of the most common problems we find on dairies is overmilking of cows.

A cow is considered milked out if less than 450 mls of milk is left in the udder. To perform the test all one needs is a measuring cup. High producing cows will never have significant stripping milk.

Monitor mid to late lactation cows to determine if automatic take off settings are adjusted correctly. To properly perform a strip yield test, it should be done as soon as the unit comes off the cow. As soon as the units come off one should aggressively milk the cows out starting with the front quarters using your full hand and not just a finger and thumb.

Milk each teat dry and then go around one more time on all four teats. If there is less than 450 ml of milk in the cup it will not affect the next milking yield.

The goal is to have 100-250 ml of milk from most cows. Routinely overmilking causes rough teat ends, increased SCC, increased risk of infections, and decreased udder health.



At far left, is a picture of an overmilked cow. At left, is an example of doing a strip yield test.

Milk Lab, Blood Lab Holiday Schedule

Both the milk lab and the blood lab will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23rd and Friday, Nov. 24th.

Any samples received after 12:00 on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd will be held for testing until Monday Nov. 27th.

For the week of Nov. 20-24, testing for Johnes and CAE will be done on Wednesday and BVD will be run on Tuesday.

Both labs will also be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

For more information, contact the clinic at 920-324-3831 or visit www.waupunvet.com.

Also, follow and like us on Facebook!

Happy Thanksgiving!