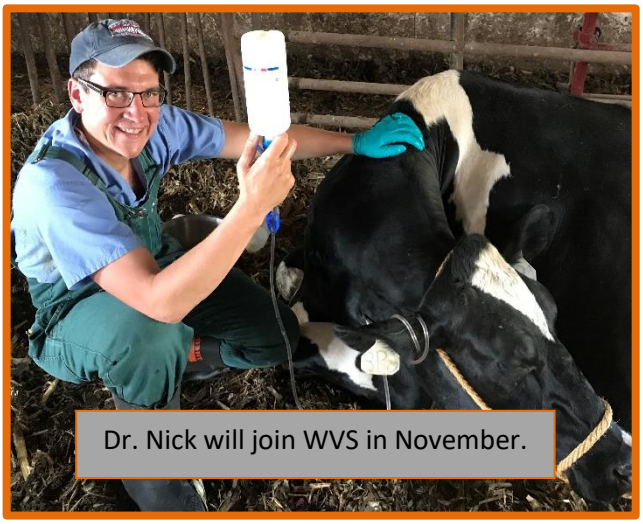
OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

We are excited to welcome Dr. Nick Mayer as our newest associate.



Dr. Nick will join WVS in November.

Nick grew up on a family dairy farm near Sheboygan, WI. His love for cows and veterinary medicine started at a young age while watching their farm vet work on sick cows. He chased off to the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate degree in Animal Science. He enjoyed cheering on the Gophers so much, despite their unimpressive football record, he stuck around another four years to pursue his veterinary degree. He graduated in 2014 and spent the next four years practicing dairy medicine in Southeastern, WI. It was there he developed a strong interest in calf health, nutrition and helping producers build productive youngstock programs. For the past two years, Nick worked for Land O Lakes as a calf specialist travelling across Wisconsin in support of cooperatives and nutritionists. In this role, he helped producers improve their calf and heifer programs by focusing on nutrition and benchmarking performance.

Nick is excited to join the team at Waupun Vets. He is looking forward to getting back into practice and working directly with farms. Nick and his wife Becky have a sweet and spunky 10-month-old named Stella. Outside of being a husband and dad, he enjoys running and woodworking. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself if you see him out in the countryside.

Cattle vaccine importance:

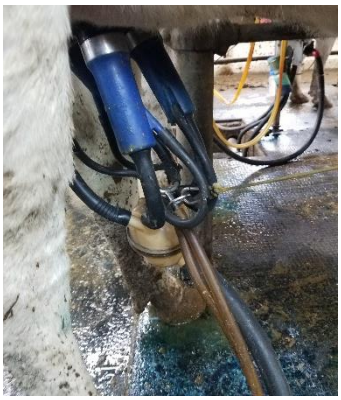
With everyone discussing COVID vaccines and how effective they are, it's important to recognize a couple of very effective vaccines used in cattle that are commonly combined with other vaccines and tend to be taken for granted. Both IBR and BVD still exist throughout the United States although they are hidden behind herd immunity on most farms. Herd immunity in this case means that most farmers do such a good job vaccinating that these two diseases seldom show themselves on most farms. They are ever present, and if you don't believe it, just quit vaccinating for a couple years.

IBR is a herpes virus, once an animal is infected the virus stays in the animal forever. Like Chicken Pox does in humans where they get infected as a child, and then the virus becomes activated 50 years later causing Shingles when the human gets old and their immune system starts to fail. IBR causes abortions and respiratory disease and 40 years ago I got to see entire barns abort all their calves when IBR swept through.

BVD is a different virus entirely, but it is stealthy and likes to infect calves still in the uterus, killing the fetus and causing abortions. It infects other fetuses causing these calves to become super shedders and "PI animals" (Persistently Infected) that never become immune. BVD comes in different strains and creates all kinds of weird infections in unvaccinated animals.

Vaccinating for IBR and BVD are the two absolutely essential diseases that all the 9way and 9way plus vaccine programs are built on. Adults need boosters and calves need at least two doses in the 4 to 8-month age group and another booster a couple weeks before they are bred. Although we tend to worry about the adults getting vaccinated, recent experience shows that vaccinating young-stock correctly and timely is very important for herd health. This is even more critical if your animals go to any heifer grower.

Common Milking Equipment Problems



Poor unit alignment results in asymmetrical twists and turns in the short milk hose that attaches to the top of the claw which reduces the functional diameter of hose on some quarters compared to others. The difference in hose diameter causes one, or more quarters, to milk out at different rates. The quarters that milk out first suffer teat end damage (whether you can see it or not), and milk from the quarters that milk out the slowest is never fully harvested. When milk is harvested unevenly, cows start producing milk unevenly. Think of a beef calf that never drinks from a certain quarter after a short time that quarter dries up. As a result poor unit alignment leads to decreased milk production.

Dirty, broken, and wore-out pulsators result in short or no rest phases. Reduction in edema and congestion caused by poor pulsation takes 8 hours. The resulting severe teat end damage often results in clinical mastitis.

Inflations and milk hoses that have exceeded their life expectancy develop pitted inside surfaces that harbor debris and bacteria. The CIP system cannot remove the contamination, so it serves as a reservoir for mastitis and plate count organisms.

Lifting milk upward requires vacuum energy, reducing the amount of vacuum available to harvest milk from the cow. When there are upward lifts in the milk hose, claw vacuum drops the most in the high-producing older cows. This leads to longer unit on-time and an increased risk for teat injury caused by the milking machine.

Cows with Mastitis Lie Down Less due to Udder Pain

They eat less, shift their weight back and forth between their back legs when they walk, have more frequent but shorter lying bouts, and increased activity. The change in behavior is true for clinical mastitis, where there is a swollen quarter and clotted milk, and also for subclinical mastitis. Sub-clinical mastitis can be identified only by performing a CMT or obtaining individual cell counts from a DHI lab. The infection itself leads to less milk by damaging the mammary gland, and less eating and reduced resting cause secondary loss of milk. Cows with mastitis are also less likely to become pregnant than their healthy herdmates. Prevention of mastitis is the best approach to optimal udder health.

Are you or a friend interested in receiving our Equine Newsletter? Send an email to **WaupunEquine@gmail.com** to join our mailing list! This year's fall newsletter contains articles about eyes, lice, and nutrition.

Take out the Hardlock!

Most farms with Dairy Comp have had one of these USB hardlocks in their computer for years. If the hardlock was removed, Dairy Comp didn't work. This is no longer the case. Now all updates are received via the internet, and your annual subscription allows the program to function. A couple of our clients have recently learned the hard way that the program will fail to update and shut down if the hardlock is still stuck in the back of the computer. One dairy recently had to pay for 3 hours of after-hours support with Valley Ag to figure out why the program wouldn't work.