



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Milking Equipment Evaluations Offered

Dr. Mark Sosalla has been doing milking equipment evaluations.

If you are interested, please reach out to Mark directly, or you can call the clinic to schedule an appointment with him.

Management Strategies for Winter

As much as I hate it, winter is here and with that there are some good management techniques to review.

Do you know what teat dips you are going to use? Do you have parameters for calf housing, ventilation changes and calf feeding?

Merry Christmas from WVS!



From our family to yours, we hope you have a safe and Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! The vets are pictured in black, in back from left are Dr. Molly, Dr. Kelsey, Dr. Tom, Dr. Jerry, Dr. Monty, Dr. Jeff, Dr. Mark S., Dr. Ralph, Dr. Nick and Dr. Jackie. The office staff is pictured in front, from left Teresa, Angela, Jesse, Carrie, Kari, Brianna, Jenny, Pat, Amanda and Mary. Not pictured is Dr. Al, Dr. Mike, Dr. Emma and Dr. Mark W.

Dogs and Abortion Risk in Cows

Neospora was first identified about 1990 as a cause of abortion in cattle. One university, I think it was UCLA Davis, reviewed slides from prior years of undiagnosed abortion storms and found Neospora had been causing abortions for years.

The Neospora parasite is shed as a coccidia in dog feces. There are other types of coccidia organisms in dog feces, but they all look the same, and that's why it took until 1990 to link dog manure coccidia and abortion. We know that a dog becomes infected by either consuming raw bovine tissue from an aborted fetus or an infected cow's placenta. Back in the day of every farmer spreading manure daily, how many times didn't I look out at a field and see a dog gnawing on a frozen placenta in spread manure. The dog, (or coyote as well), usually very young when first infected, then passes the coccidia in their dog feces with no sign they are shedding. So, **dog manure in feed is one of two methods of infecting cattle**, and if it gets in a TMR mixer it can infect a lot of cattle. The dog becomes immune in a month or two and doesn't pass the coccidia again even if it eats more infected placenta. Take home, make sure dog manure never gets in cattle feed.

Once a cow or heifer is infected it's infected for life, and it may or may not abort again in the next pregnancy. The Neospora forms a cyst in different parts of the cow's body and periodically breaks into the blood stream. An infected cow may not abort, but about half of her offspring will be infected at birth, so the disease carries on and this is the second way an animal can become infected, in the uterus of mom.

Antibiotic Testing is More Sensitive

If you ever had a hot load of milk and you knew you had no contamination, you may find this interesting.

Whole Foods is being sued because they claim, “no Antibiotics Ever,” for their beef. But here’s the thing, as testing gets more and more sensitive, becoming positive with ever shrinking number of molecules in a food product, the chances of something showing up increases.

Maybe there was contamination somewhere in the feed. Maybe there was a mold producing a similar antibiotic, maybe someone at a packing plant or milk plant made an error. For non-organic meat there is a legal tolerance level for residue, but when you claim there will be no residue at all, there is an open door for a sue happy lawyer.

Beef Bull Conception Warning

As more dairy producers work beef bulls into their artificial insemination systems, the industry has become aware of poor conception problems with beef. The problem has been poor feedback to the AI industry from beef producers who didn’t pay a lot of attention to conception rates because they tend to have poor records and often use cleanup bulls overlapping their AI. Make sure when using beef bulls that they have high conception rates, and if they don’t or there is poor data with low numbers, pick another bull. Ultimately the pregnancy is your primary goal.

PDPW Offers Financial Class

The Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin is a great organization, and they have a great financial class that has three levels held in Juneau.

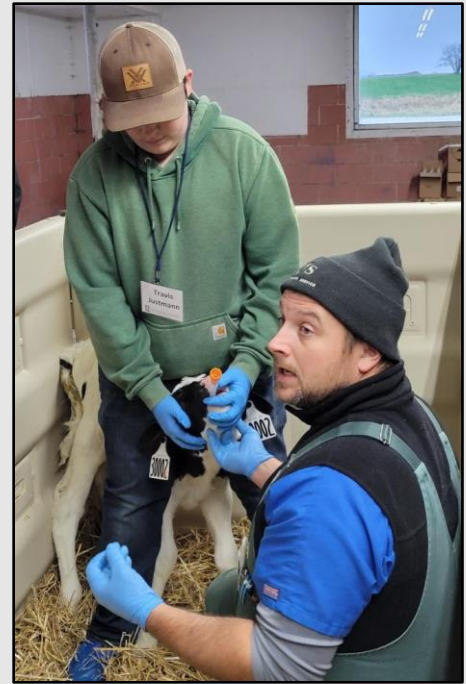
I’ve taken the second level because the first level is basic, and they give you the option to test out. I really enjoyed the class.

If you have an interest, I would highly recommend it. Some of the best discussions are the tangents that different producers discuss on how they handle different aspects of their dairy operations. The contact is 800-947-7379.



Holidays in the Clinic

Dr. Tom is pictured at right hoarding Christmas treats in the office, paying no attention to his modeling physique.



Teaching Calf Care

Dr. Ralph taught a small group of high school students from throughout the state about calf care at Nehls Brothers Farm in Juneau this month. The event was held by the PDPW as a STRIDE conference for youth. Ralph is pictured above showing the students how to tube a calf.

Sheep, Goat News

There was no sheep and goat Scrapie positive animals in the national testing for all of 2022. We are getting close to total eradication. Scrapie is a prion, passed on from mom to offspring, but the biggest concern is that the Scrapie prion caused Mad Cow Disease in the European community in the mid 1990’s in people and caused at least 175 gruesome deaths. The root problem was that Great Britain didn’t cook their meat and bone meal as hot as the United States and then they fed it back to cattle. The United States never rendered sheep like the U.K. did.

Dryer for Sale!

We have a used dryer in good condition for sale at the clinic. It is a GE and is \$200. Call the office for more info.