



## OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

The calf scour prevention product Bovine Ecolizer in the tube and bottle is being discontinued. I'm not sure how long our current supply will last. First Defense Tri Shield is a similar product that we have had some supply issues with in the past but, at this time, the supply appears to be good.

### WVS Small Ruminant News

**WVS** just finished another season of laparoscopic artificial insemination (lap A.I.) for sheep and goats. Sheep and goats have a complicated cervix with multiple convoluted rings that make normal AI very difficult. Cervical AI is an option, but has much lower conception rates compared to intrauterine AI. During the lap AI procedure, animals are sedated and put on a cradle. Two small holes are made in the abdomen. One hand holds a laparoscope to visualize the uterus, while the other hand guides the insemination pipette to the uterine horns, where a small incision is made in each horn. Semen is deposited directly into the uterus.

We will be busy pregnancy checking small ruminants this fall! Remember that we offer both BioPRYN blood testing and trans-abdominal ultrasound. Blood testing can be done at 30 days post-breeding and does not require a vet. We do it right at the clinic so there is a quick turn-around of results. Ultrasounding can be done 45 days after breeding. The benefits of ultrasound include counting for multiples, fetal sexing, and aging the fetus (if AI/breeding date unknown). WVS has a special probe used for sheep and goats that allows for ultrasounding outside the abdomen.

WVS was at the Sheep and Wool Festival last month in Jefferson.



**We are excited to continue expanding our small ruminant services!**



- With harvest and wet weather remember to clean the mud off the road surface at farm drives and maybe put up signage to cover your butt and avoid law suits. There are a lot of attorneys looking to litigate farm issues because you guys have good insurance.
- The FDA is set to make changes to over the counter antibiotics this month. Basically all injectable antibiotics and intramammary products will only be available with a veterinary prescription.
- Waupun Veterinary Services has always given veterinary students the opportunity to experience our clients and our practice. Dr. Jackie McIntyre is in charge of the programs and coordinates the student activities. All the surrounding states are represented and last summer a student from Germany spent two weeks. On exit interviews the students are consistently impressed that Waupun Vet has so many top notch farmers with such great attitudes. Thanks.

## Equine

We recently had a horse present with Potomac Horse Fever. This diarrheal disease also causes high fever and can cause severe laminitis. In this case the disease responded rapidly and positively to treatment. Interesting component of the disease is that it is not transmitted horse to horse, but a horse contracts the disease by eating a small marsh insect or possibly a snail infected with the bacteria. This is a relatively new disease in Wisconsin that may spread and get worse. There is a vaccine for the disease but it is not as effective as vaccines for viral diseases.

**RFID Tags or Radio Frequency Identification Tags** are going to be mandatory for animal ID. This will be implemented on January 1, 2023. Effective January 1, 2021, or just over a year from now, veterinarians can no longer apply metal tags to ID animal. We will be putting RFID tags in animals that do not have metal 940 tags for TB testing, health certificates, and for any official lab work. There should be some funding support for the cost of these tags coming from USDA. Now is a great time to think about implementing this program so you aren't forced to retag older animals in 2023.

**TB:** I had two herds that tested every year for Tuberculosis, or TB, and then given a pass on testing young stock going to shows, sales, and across state lines. This herd had incredible genetics so animals were sold and shown monthly. The herd test made sense until it didn't. One old cow, which was scored Excellent, had nodules along the lymph tracks going up her leg. This is rarely seen today, but was much more common with pastured animals, particularly older animals pastured along low ground. These animals usually showed up positive on a TB test because the organism infecting their legs caused the TB test to show positive. But normally when the state vet came and did the backup comparative cervical test that backup test would clear the animal. Only this time it didn't. So the client and I were upset. The animal was designated for slaughter on a specific date at a specific slaughter plant so that a state vet could be there to inspect the animal and take samples. This would either confirm TB was present, or confirm the test was in error. The odds of this animal having TB were incredibly low and I knew why the test was positive, I'd seen it before. Also, they hadn't purchased any animals, but they did exhibit animals at local shows. They could have contracted TB at a show, but the probability of that happening is about the same as Monty setting a world sprint record in the over 50 age group. There is minimal animal-to-animal contact at a show, minimal common eating and drinking areas and shows tend to have great ventilation. The state vet and I both knew the cow was negative but it had to be slaughtered and inspected. So the cow was sent to slaughter, and butchered, but the veterinary inspector didn't show up, didn't tell the farmer to hold off shipping the animal, just didn't do his job. When I pressed the issue with the state vet he informed me to ignore the issue. Because the animal wasn't properly inspected by law the farm should be quarantined as a TB suspect herd and retested a couple times before animals could be sold or shown. In my opinion it smelled like extortion. "If you Mr. Farmer make an issue of our failure, then we will make your life hell. But don't worry, we knew all along the cow didn't have TB." Basically because a state employee didn't do their job, the farmer could just accept it or if he made an issue, the state would screw the farmer. You have to love government employee accountability.

WVS Veterinarians Dr. Cassandra Gewiss, Dr. Emma Schaffel, and Dr. Jackie McIntyre were interviewed by Dairy Star. Check out the article at <https://dairystar.com/Content/Home/Home/Article/Women-veterinarians-on-the-rise/80/254/15919>

