



Waupun Vet Services Updates

- Special thanks to all the clients that made it to our client appreciation luncheon. We would like some feedback from clients on ways to improve the venue and the food. If you have ideas, pass them on. I would like to add that we have considered moving the physical location around the practice different years, but it's hard to find a location that's as easy to access as the current town hall. We also could do it in Waupun, but Waupun is a very long narrow city and the current location allows clients to drive around the outside of Waupun thus saving drive time. We do change the date year to year, and we try to avoid hay making, but that fails half the years.

- We continue to have veterinarians arrive at farms to examine animals or perform surgeries and the veterinarian can't find the animal or an employee that knows which animal needs treating. Many of you do a great job with marking and with cell phone contacts, but there continue to be cases where the communication could be better. Sometimes the fault is at our end as well, when the office doesn't convey the message about contact numbers.

- Polyflex was in short supply, then we had one big shipment. Now we can get generic but not Polyflex. The company that makes Polyflex is saying we will get another shipment next year. This is going on an 18-month shortage. I think we need to get a couple farmers managing Polyflex production because farmers can always correct production shortages in one year or less, and the one year is just for annual row crops. Farmers always make sure the price drops precipitously once they correct production shortages.

- Charge Policy Review:** Waupun Veterinary Services offers a 20% discount on all statements if paid by the 20th of the month provided the prior month's bill was paid. After one month we also add a service fee. After the second month of failure to pay, clients are required to pay cash or use a credit card at the time of service. The discount that would normally be offered on the cash payments is applied to the existing delinquent account.

- VFD reminder:** Is your VFD current? All antibiotics mixed in feed need a veterinary prescription called a VFD or Veterinary Feed Directive. Once the prescription is written it is good for 6 months. Once it expires after 6 months a veterinarian must visit your farm and observe the animals consuming the feed and discuss briefly the usage and any feed withdrawal issues. Many clients VFD's have expired, often because the antibiotics are used for coughing young stock in the fall. If you anticipate wanting to get a new VFD don't wait, there is a time lag requiring the veterinary visit and issuing the VFD before the mill can mix the feed. If you suddenly decide you want to put your calves on tetracycline on a Friday afternoon, unfortunately for your calves, it probably isn't going to happen.

-In the News

- The China tariffs and trade embargos get all the negative news but from the beef side of agriculture there is actually good news. Japan has finally opened its market to US beef. This will boost exports. And the EU has lowered its restrictions for beef which should also help exports. I met a couple guys from New Zealand recently, and there is something of an environmental push against the rotational grazing in New Zealand that could limit their production and thus their exports. This is more of a long term positive.

- Government puts the screws to meat packer: All slaughter plants require a USDA employed veterinarian to be involved with the inspection of carcasses. The veterinarian can have assistants working under them, but the veterinarian is required to sign off on the carcass health and the condemnation of any carcasses. A USDA employed veterinarian sat in her car rather than enter a slaughter plant, and she subsequently approved 4600 hogs to go for human consumption. The veterinarian signed the inspection sheets. Video documentation showed that she had failed

to do her job and had not even entered the slaughter plant. Because there was no legal inspection all 4600 hogs carcasses were considered unfit for human consumption and were sent to rendering. The slaughter plant requested that USDA reimburse them for the value of the hogs plus storage fees and the cost of destroying the carcasses. The government of course refused because they can do no wrong. After all, if you run a slaughter plant that by law requires government inspection you should expect the government to screw up and budget for it. You can't make this up. The slaughter plant is suing. Ronald Regan "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." I suspect the veterinarian involved being a government employee got either a raise or was asked to retire with full retirement benefits.

- Research from Budapest Hungary on pregnancy loss with twins in opposite horns vs. a single calf pregnancy showed no difference. The loss of twins is from same horn twinning pregnancies. Recent meeting with UW research staff confirmed this. Some veterinarians are trying to kill one embryo to reduce the number of twins. I personally had terrible success with this, mainly both calves died and were aborted. However many feel that starting the pregnancy program over and hoping for a single calf is preferable to having twins, and they feel the risk of aborting two calves is a price worth paying in attempting to abort just one of the calves. Remember that a male twin makes a female twin infertile (freemartin) by 30 days of pregnancy, so if you kill a male fetus and retain a female fetus, you still have a 95% chance of the female being a freemartin.

From Dr. Al's Pen

- I moved to Waupun in 1978 one week after graduating from Vet School. I obtained a Michigan and a Wisconsin veterinary license. I started on a Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., my first call was a sore foot in Ladoga. Dr. DeYoung who hired me left on vacation that morning at 10:00 a.m. Ten years later with three kids and my wife running a small animal veterinary clinic out of our garage I asked her if I died if she would move back to Michigan where both of our families were located. She responded, "No way", and we both quit renewing our Michigan veterinary licenses. There is rarely a day I don't say a little prayer of thanks that I live right here. The people and farmers of this state are the best. For those of you that haven't lived in other parts of the country, don't look over the fence for greener pastures, you're living in them. I tell people that the best thing about growing up in Detroit is that every day after you move is a great day.

- I smile at the fight in the media and in congress on minimum wages. I don't think it matters much as long as wage changes are slowly implemented. There is one exception, and that is kids from 14 to 18 probably need to start at lower wages to both learn to be good employees and to get employers to hire them. Four weeks ago, while traveling to North Dakota, I sat in a booth in a McDonalds in Minneapolis while the manager discussed a job offer with an interviewee. Same old same old until the manager stated, "We'll start you at 17 dollars an hour." It dawned on me that the labor shortage (and it is huge) was taking care of the minimum wage argument.

- Health Genomics: With the ability to predict health traits and the probability of health issues from genomic tests, producers will be able to gradually improve the overall health of animals in their herds. Over time, mastitis, pneumonia, DA's and metritis will all decrease, even if you don't select for it specifically. The bull studs will be using health traits as one factor in bull selection. This is good for the dairy producer, less stress and a lower vet bill. Of course this is not so good for your veterinarian which should make all of you smile. Personally, I love technology and when animal health is improved with technology, I'm all for it.



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