

# Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY SERVICES

## Countdown to Fairwell for Dr. Steph!

We are both proud and a little sad to announce that Dr. Steph Bandoski will be leaving our practice in May of 2026. Dr. Steph has been awarded a prestigious position with the Dr. Charles A. Hjerpe Fellowship, where she will be focusing on efficient and sustainable dairy management. Through this program she will be mentored by the smartest minds in the industry while working with dairies

across the country and receiving her MBA at University of Chicago's Booth Business School.

Dr. Steph has been an integral part of our team for 3 years, distinguishing herself through her aptitude for data analysis and on farm protocol management. Her passion for her patients and our clients is unparalleled and we know she will continue to

do remarkable things in her new role. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Steph's accomplishments and wishing her continued success!

Though we can't keep Dr. Steph on our team, we will be looking to hire a veterinarian to fill her position. The interview process will be starting this fall.



## The Heat Is Stressing Me Out Dr. Stephanie Bandoski

**Here are 3 things you can do to help your cows out during the heat of summer.**

1. Provide shade and enough of it. Cows fundamentally seek shade and prefer shade over fans or sprinklers. Provide enough shade that animals can spread out evenly and not bunch in one area. Think about putting shade cloth on your southern/ western facing pens to increase the shaded area throughout the hottest part of the day.

2. Provide enough water. Cows also fundamentally flock to water sources because drinking water helps cool them off. Having ample access to water is essential during the summer. Provide at least 3 inches of water space per cow. If space is limited in pens, think about putting waterers in alleys so cows can drink on their way to/ returning from the parlor.  
3. Provide fans over lying spaces NOT over feed alleys! Hav-

ing fans is great, but make sure you use them to their full advantage. The best return on your investment for fans is when they cool a cow while she is lying down. This helps decrease bunching, increase lying time, and increase intakes.... All things that add up to more milk in your bulk tank! Only when there are enough fans over all stall platforms should you put fans over feed alleys.

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## Hairy Heel Wart Treatment

Dr. Elizabeth Martens

Hairy Heel Wart is one of the most common conditions causing lameness on dairy farms. A recent research review conducted by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) compared several different topical treatments with research behind them. Tetracycline, Salicylic acid, and various copper, zinc, iodine and even honey preparations were all studied.



Warts are caused by a bacteria called a Treponema, that thrives in an anaerobic environment, away from oxygen. Importantly, exposing cow feet to this bacteria without also having wetness and manure present does NOT cause warts. The #1 way to prevent and control warts is by keeping the environment clean and dry.

Foot baths are another essential method of controlling warts once you have animals infected. Foot baths are NOT a treatment method for active lesions. They work by disinfecting feet to prevent spread of the bacteria, very similar to the way teat dip works to prevent mastitis. Copper Sulfate, Zinc Sulfate, Formalin and other products have all been proven effective.

*"Using more than the recommended dose is not better!"*

In a large review of research behind topical treatments for warts, Salicylic acid powder and Tetracycline powder under a wrap rose to the top in terms of treatment success. Tetracycline had a very slight advantage over the salicylic acid, but some people prefer how salicylic acid doesn't irritate the skin and make cows even more uncomfortable for a couple days after treatment. With both products, using more than the recommended dose is not better! 2 grams of tetracycline powder or just enough salicylic acid powder to cover the lesion (10 grams or less) will give better results than packing on as much as you can fit under the bandage. Both products do have a milk withholding time, so be sure you are following your veterinarian's advice on dosing to avoid a residue.

## The Valleywide Summer 2025 Team

You may have noticed some new faces at Valleywide this summer. Hailey Bartlett (second from left) is a local recent high school graduate who is working in our milk lab and occasionally on the road with vets this summer. This is our first time hiring a student for the whole summer and she has been doing a great job. Best of luck to her as she leaves for SUNY Cobleskill next month! Krystal is now the proud mother of a baby boy, and while she is out on maternity leave, Tina Jordan (far left) is working full time in the office.

