

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY SERVICES

Strongyloides papillosus, a New Diagnosis

This past fall, Valleywide found *Strongyloides papillosus* to be the cause of sudden death in heifers for the first time on a farm in Addison County. This is the first reported herd outbreak in Vermont and only the third in the US.

S. papillosus is a roundworm that has been known to cause diarrhea and weight loss in young ruminants. Recently, premature udder development and sudden death has been documented in recently weaned heifers with significant

loads of this parasite in New York State. It is believed that the adult worm, which lives in the GI tract, produces a toxin that can cause a fatal arrhythmia of the heart.

S. papillosus can be detected and quantified in the feces, and diagnosis can be made along with symptoms of the group. Treatment of these animals with dewormer has been extremely effective in preventing death and resolving udder growth. If any young stock are observed to have diar-

rhea, ill-thrift, premature udder development or sudden death, please contact your veterinarian or drop off a fecal sample to our office. We would love to help!



A heifer in Addison county with premature udder development affected by *S. papillosus*

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Covid Precautions During the Holiday Season

Masks are now required to enter the Valleywide office regardless of Covid vaccination status and veterinarians will be wearing them on farms. Please inform your veterinarian if anyone on your farm



has tested positive for the virus BEFORE they arrive so that we

can make a plan to get the job done in the safest way possible. Contact free pickup is still available for any supplies you need from our office. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our families and all the



farm families of Addison County safe, healthy and productive this season!

Selective Dry Cow Treatment to Reduce Antibiotic Use

Dr. Elizabeth Martens

Dry cow intramammary antibiotic treatment has been in short supply for the past 6 months, and it doesn't look promising for more to be available in the new year. Valleywide has been sourcing as much as possible and doing our best to allocate what we have to our farms fairly. Everyone will need to conserve the available supply in order to have enough to treat the cows that really need it. What better chance to talk about selective dry cow treatment (SDCT) strategies?



Selective dry cow treatment means selecting which cows need antibiotics at dry off and which are likely to maintain a healthy udder throughout the dry period with only teat sealant. The key is that we are selecting which cows don't get treated and not being forced into it because the farm has run out of tubes. The primary function of dry cow antibiotic treatment is to eliminate chronic infections that cows have at dry-off, so only cows with high SCC or a recent history of SCC really need to be treated. Research from the University of Minnesota has

A cow that has maintained an SCC below 200,000 cells/mL throughout her lactation, has not had a case of mastitis in the current lactation and currently has a negative CMT test or milk culture should do well without antibiotics at dry off.

shown that dry cow antibiotic use can be reduced by up to 55% without significantly impacting milk quality. Monitoring milk quality very closely in the first few months after starting SDCT will be essential to its success. As always, a clean environment for dry cows is the best protection against new mastitis infections during the dry period.

In general, a cow that has maintained an SCC below 200,000 cells/mL throughout her lactation, has not had a case of mastitis in the current lactation and currently has a negative CMT test or milk culture should do well without antibiotics at dry off. In most cases, a cow that hasn't had mastitis in the past 14 days and has a negative milk culture the week of dry off is a good candidate as well. There are many ways to combine the available information to decide which cows, or even more specifically which quarters, need treatment.

Dairy Comp has the ability to set up farm specific algorithms to easily make lists of which cows do and don't need dry cow treatment based on the cutoffs you

want to use. PC Dart provides the information necessary for individuals to make treatment decisions. Valleywide's milk quality lab can culture milk and measure SCC to provide selective dry cow therapy recommendations even without computer records. Please talk to your vet about selective dry cow treatment protocols and for help setting up your computer software to get started!

