

# Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY SERVICES

## Calf Lung Ultrasounding: What's the scoop?

An ultrasound can be used to scan calf lungs and determine if the lungs are normal or abnormal. This helps detect subclinical pneumonia before calves are exhibiting other signs like fever, cough, or decreased appetite. By detecting and treating pneumonia early, you can increase your pneumonia cure rate and help your calves grow better.

Calf lung ultrasound is not the saving grace to solve the "calf pneumonia problem". But it can be a tool to help improve your calf management plan.

By scanning the lungs of your calves, we can determine:

- How much pneumonia is present in your wet calves
- Whether pneumonia is being detected in a timely manner by calf personnel
- What age groups are most at risk
- Whether antibiotic treatments are successful
- What calves should be culled

Improving your calf health will benefit your future lactating herd. It will help increase the average daily gain of your heifers and decrease the number of poor does that freshen in.

If you are curious whether this could be a tool to help improve your herd, you can find more information at <https://thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu/home/calf-health-module/> or talk to your veterinarian!



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## Green Mountain Dairy Discussion Group

After a 2 year hiatus, the Green Mountain Dairy Discussion Group is up and running again for 2022-2023. Monthly lunch meetings are being planned from November until March. Each meeting will include a speaker and time for group discussion during the catered meal. Call the Valleywide office or talk to your veterinarian to get on the e-mail and text list for updates about the program, and let us know if you have a topic in mind you would like to discuss.

## Vermont Dairy Producers Conference

There are a limited number of free tickets available to Valleywide clients for the 2023 Vermont Dairy Producers Conference being held in Burlington on February 21st, 2023. The conference schedule has not yet been announced, but keep your eye out for more details to come. If you are interested in attending the conference, let us know!

## Activity Monitors Provide Health Data Too **Dr. Elizabeth Martens**

Activity monitors can measure steps, rumination, lying time and standing time. Some have the ability to detect panting, eating and internal body temperature. With that data, many herds have reduced the time spent observing cows for heats and improved overall reproduction with better service rates. Recent research has shown that certain health events can be identified as early if not

earlier than an attentive herdsman and equally as accurately. The Allflex SCR system has a proprietary Health Index Score



(HIS) that uses all of the data, with the most weight on rumination time, to score each animal's health. Animals with an HIS below your chosen threshold will be on the Health Report. Most research has chosen 86 as the cutoff, showing excellent ability to diagnose DA, ketosis and indigestion in cattle with scores lower than this. Metritis and mastitis can also be diagnosed this way with good accuracy, though early and mild cases are still identified better by experienced people working with the individual cows every day.

### Tips for the Allflex SCR System:

Run breeding reports every day at the same time - each cow is only on the report for 25 hours so being more than an hour late could result in a missed cow in heat.

Reports can be automatically set to print or email at a certain time every day or week.

Check the Tag Maintenance report to find any sensors that are lost or not working - these will be replaced at no charge if your system is leased but you are responsible for reporting them.

A cow's health index score (HIS) is based on deviation from her previous 17 days. An animal that is chronically doing poorly will eventually come off the health report even though she hasn't improved, because it has become her "normal" state.

If you want to make sure you are making the most of your SCR system, a virtual meeting can be set up with the Merck/Allflex technical support veterinarian to review your settings and reports.

**Dr. Elizabeth Martens and her husband Jorge are looking forward to welcoming their first child in January 2023. Elizabeth will continue to work for the rest of this year as usual and will be back next spring after maternity leave.**

