

WINTER 2024

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY
SERVICES

News For The New Year

Save the Date!

Valleywide Producer Dinner

Thursday, April 4th

Dr. Julio Giordano will give an update on repro protocols and combining hormones with activity monitor use.

Sponsored by:

Zoetis

Food For Thought

Aspirin residues have been found in milk up to 7 days after administration to dairy cows, according to recent, unpublished research. This is significant because some people with medical conditions must avoid aspirin due to its blood thinning effects. As dairy producers our priority is to produce unadulterated milk that consumers can trust to be safe.

While legally there is still no withhold required, it's something to consider the next time you are making the decision to try treatment with aspirin.

Green Mountain Dairy Discussion Group

Upcoming Lunch Meetings:

Dr. Sam Mosely Feb 15th

Joanna Lidback, March 15th

Dr. Julio Giordano April 5th

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Dr. Dave Rockwell
Dr. Elizabeth Martens
Dr. Stephanie Bandoski
Dr. Emma Cijka

Kim Miner
Krystal Ingwersen
Nikki Normandin, LVT

Thank You to Dr. Glen Cousineau for 33 years of service to farms in and around Addison County. Glen has been a mentor and teacher of countless veterinary students, newly graduated vets, and young farmers. He has an incredible memory for all things veterinary medicine, and the patience and sense of humor to get us through many a midnight c-section, wild animal rodeo, and long days on the road. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement!



Glen Cousineau, DVM

Have You Ever Seen a Cow Blow Up Like a Balloon? A Rare and Interesting Case of Hydrops Dr. Elizabeth Martens



Recently, I've gotten several emergency calls for an extremely "bloated" dry cow that someone just noticed. The cow is very distended on both the left and right and sometimes has trouble breathing, eating and walking. It makes sense to think first about bloat, but the key here is that the cow is in her last couple months of gestation and both sides of the lower abdomen are equally large. This story, combined with palpation of the uterus, confirms a diagnosis of hydrops.

The extra weight of fetal fluids and membranes may be as much as 300-450 pounds!

Hydrops is the general term for excessive fluid in the uterus - hydrops allantois is caused by a defect in the cow's regulation of fluids in her pregnant uterus, while hydrops amnion is caused by a defect in the fetus. Hydrops amnion is less common, tends to develop more slowly, and may result in a live but deformed calf.

Hydrops allantois may seem to suddenly develop over days or weeks, and the combined extra weight of fetal fluids and membranes may be as much as 300-450 pounds! This explains the cow's difficulty getting around. Left unaddressed, these cows usually go down and become dehydrated. They may rupture the tendon that holds the uterus in place which is painful and causes internal bleeding. They may dislocate a hip or get a massive abdominal hernia.

Usually the best course of action is to euthanize the cow or send her for beef if she is stable enough. If the cow and/or calf are particularly valuable, it is possible to induce the cow to calve, slowly drain some fluid while administering fluids in the vein, and perform a c-section as



A uterus with hydrops

soon as safely possible. The cow will have a poor chance of breeding back in the future because of her stretched out uterus. The calves are often born premature and/or deformed, but successful outcomes for both cow and calf are not outside the realm of possibility!