

SPRING 2025

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY
SERVICES

Cows Must be Restrained For Herd Checks

For everyone's safety, veterinarians with Valleywide will no longer palpate cows that are loose in free stalls. Cows need to be restrained on level ground with the vet – this may be in headlocks, a palpation rail, chute, one by one through a milking parlor or squeezed behind a gate. We are open to creative ideas. Stepping up into freestalls not only puts strain on the palpating shoulder, it makes us vulnerable to injury in a variety of ways including torn rotator cuffs, kicks to the torso, cows stepping down off the curb onto our feet, and injured hands holding the freestall loop. Pregnancy checking goes much faster when cows are restrained ahead of time too. Please work with your veterinarian to find a safe solution no later than July 1st of this year.



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Things to Know for the 2025 Show Season

As we move into Fair and Show Season, remember that your animals need official identification (RFID tags), all vaccinations required by the show, and a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. For non-lactating dairy cattle, we can write your health chart for the entire fair season beginning May 1, for all New England shows held between May 1st and October 31st. Due to the risk of avian influenza, interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle still requires a negative HPAI test, and many shows within Vermont may continue to require a negative milk test within 7 days of arrival. Be sure to check the requirements of each show! Also note that if HPAI is detected in cattle in any of the New England states, a previous certificate of veterinary inspection made at the beginning of the summer will be voided. Further, animals moving from states currently affected by bovine HPAI are prohibited from attending any shows in New England.



Supplementing Maternal Pheromones Improves Calves' Lives

Dr. Elizabeth Martens

Mammals communicate using pheromones that others of the same species smell. Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance (MBAS) is produced in the cow's udder and produces a calming sensation in the calf while nursing. A synthetic form of this pheromone called Ferappease is commercially available for use on dairy farms and re-



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search is very promising for supporting improved calf health, growth and welfare by lowering stress.

Ferappease is a topical liquid treatment that can be used on calves and cows in times of stress. It is administered above the nose and behind the poll of the animal and can be given as often as every 14 days. The best times to use it is when the calf is first removed from the cow, at weaning and movement from individual to group housing.

Research in calves has specifically shown improved average daily gains, reduced mortality rates, lower incidence and duration of diarrhea and pneumonia, reduced antibiotic treatment costs and greater response to vaccination against respiratory disease.

Research in beef cattle has shown similar and even greater benefit in calves at weaning and in cattle on the day of shipment to the slaughterhouse. Carcass yields are 1% to 1.5% higher in treated cattle which shows the huge impact stress can have on healthy muscle development. Returns on investment have been calculated in studies on beef cattle, ranging from 10:1 and 30:1. There's reason to believe the financial return would be similar in dairy calves.



This is a totally new technology, unrelated to the antimicrobials, anti-inflammatories and nutritional supplements we already use in calves. There is no withhold time or side effects that we know of. We would love to support some local on-farm trials to test this product's impact on animal health and financial returns!

- Backorder Update**
- Calvary 9
 - Ceftiflex
 - Estrumate
 - Guardian
 - Coronavirus vaccine
 - Syringes 6 mL and larger
 - Penicillin
 - Polyflex/Ampicillin
 - Ultrabac 8
 - Maglax (pink pills) boluses
 - LA 300
 - Polymast
 - Allocation:**
 - Excede
 - Dexamethasone
 - Tri-Shield
 - JVAC 50 dose