

VALLEYWIDE NEWS

Summer 2026



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY
SERVICES

Welcome Dr. Alisha Mackin!

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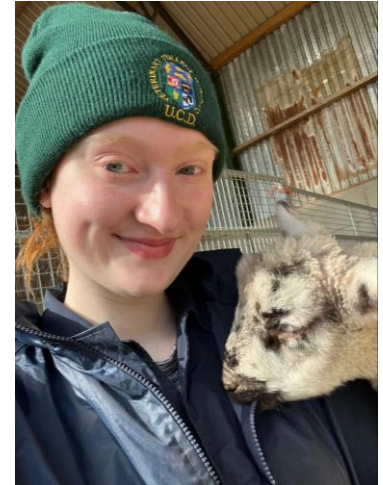
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Alisha Mackin grew up on the South Coast of Massachusetts with dogs and a cat. She completed her undergrad at the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a degree in Animal Science (concentration in Pre-Veterinary Science), where she developed her love for cattle and sheep. Alisha worked with the school's flock of Dorset sheep, dairy calves, and Belted Galloway herd. From then on, she took a strong interest in farm animal medicine and became a TA for the beef cattle management class to teach husbandry and management to other undergraduate students. During her summers she worked at a mixed animal hospital on Martha's Vineyard. Alisha then went onto veterinary school at the



University College Dublin school of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in June 2026. In the summers during vet school, Alisha rode along with small animal and farm animal veterinary practices in MA, VT, and NY and completed the Cornell Summer Dairy Institute in 2025. In her free time, Alisha enjoys Irish dancing, swimming, exploring nature, and spending time with her husband and family. She is excited to return home to New England, get to know the clients, and work with ruminants and camelids of all sizes.

As always with new vets at Valleywide, Dr. Mackin will spend her first month riding along with the vets and getting to know the farms while she gets up to speed with the ultrasound and treating emergency cases. She will always have a backup veterinarian available to call for help when needed.

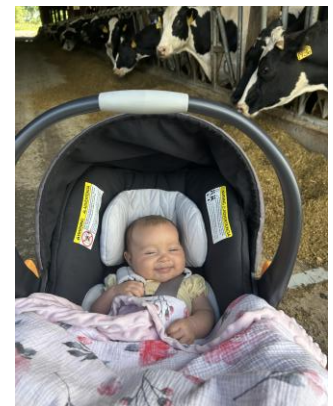
Pregnancy and Maternity Leave on the Dairy Farm

I've been very fortunate to have gone through 2 uneventful pregnancies and births and I'd like to thank everyone who had a part in supporting me. Dave and the Valleywide team couldn't have done a better job. If you or someone you employ is or might one day be pregnant, a few suggestions:

1) The first and only thing you need to say when someone shares their news of growing their family is "Congratulations! Is there anything you need from me right now?". From there plan to have a meeting later to discuss plans for temporary work accommodations and family leave and routinely check in on how things are going.

2) Gradually phasing out of physical work and then back into it after the birth works really well. If there's flexibility for the pregnant person to work part time or flexible hours try to offer that.

3) Fathers need time off too. Research is very clear that the physical and mental health of the whole family is improved when both parents can be home for the first 2-3 weeks of a baby's life.



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A few farm specific things pregnant people should avoid:

- 1) **Hormones (prostaglandin, oxytocin, GnRH, CIDR's, dexamethosone).** If you can't give this job to someone else, wear gloves and be careful to avoid needle sticks. Talk to your doctor and do what you're comfortable with.
- 2) **Aborted fetuses and associated birthing fluids.** Some things that cause abortion in ruminants can do the same in humans. Avoid these if at all possible.
- 3) **Slips, trips and falls** - And I'll add kicks, head butts and getting squished by cows. All the usual things that cause injury on farms are just a little harder to avoid with a rapidly changing body.

Pregnant people are the same tough, intelligent, capable and hardworking people they were before. They may just need to do things differently for a while.



What You Need to Know About Screwworm

The New World Screwworm's arrival to the US made headlines earlier this summer. It is going to be an ongoing problem for livestock, pet owners and wildlife in the southern US likely for several years. ***The USDA and private farmers eradicated this parasite successfully 60 years ago and they can do it again, though it will be costly and time consuming.***

Aside from surveillance of borders and areas of known cases, the sterile insect technique is the key to eradication. The female screwworm only mates once in her life. Sterile males are released from airplanes near known infestations in order to mate with all the females and disrupt the life cycle. ***This is why it is so important that any possible cases are reported quickly.*** Currently the sterile male production facility in Panama makes 100 million flies per week, the new facility opened in Mexico in June makes another 100 million per week, and a third facility is slated to open in Texas in November 2027 to produce 300 million flies per week by early 2028. Combined, these three facilities will produce the 500 million sterile flies the USDA expects will be required to eradicate the screwworm. Once the screwworm is driven as far south as the Darien Gap in Panama, they will constantly release sterile males to cover that 66 mile wide land bridge and prevent its passage north again.



Luckily in Vermont the screwworm won't be able to survive except for a few months in the summer when the temperature stays above 40 degrees for 10 days straight. The only likely way they could get here would be on an animal traveling from an infested area. This could be livestock, pets, wildlife or (rarely) humans. There will be movement restriction zones around known infestations and animals allowed to travel should be carefully inspected and perhaps given a preventive dewormer.

Key things to know:

This parasite is easily treatable.

Screwworm enters a wound and larvae prefer live flesh. Check the umbilicus, fresh wounds and ear tag/castration/dehorning sites for maggots.

To finish its life cycle and reproduce, the larvae need to drop into soil. If you find a possible case it is essential that you contain any larvae and for a vet to look at and advise on disposal - not throw maggots on the ground, garbage etc!

Backorder Update:

Vitamin B complex

Tomorrow tubes

Maglax boluses

Penicillin – all sizes

3cc Luer Lock syringes

Tulissin - discontinued