



Grassroots

District 8 News

From the Milk House

**Ryan Klussendorf**

WFBF District 8 Director

January. The month may be cold but it encourages us to work in the office. Every year we must prep and complete bookwork to complete our taxes.

January bookwork allows us to look at the last year's strategies to see if our major purchases have paid off, where we can cut expenses and if we turned a profit last year. Farmers tend to make each dollar stretch to pay the bills over the year.

American farmers are constantly bombarded with changing costs, new fees and changing membership dues. As farmers, we bid out our feed mixes, compare seed and fertilizer expenses, and call around to find the best fuel prices to stretch that mighty dollar.

At the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, delegates passed a bylaw change to increase the price of our dues. Our delegates passed that dues increase to ensure Wisconsin Farm Bureau's future. This increase will help to stretch our membership dollars to create and implement new programs, build a membership database to help get the word out when hot topics are flowing through Madison or Washington, D.C., and keep Farm Bureau relevant in Wisconsin agriculture.

When I think about Farm Bureau, I think about the need for membership engagement at the county and district level. Our power lies in our grassroots framework. Here in District 8, we held engaging and educational programs last year like Soil Your Undies, Energy Summit and the Agricultural Incident Training for emergency personnel.

We can't stop there. We need fresh ideas to keep members engaged. If you have a specific educational or engagement idea let Ashleigh or I know. We can help to make that idea blossom into a great program.

Local affairs chairs on your county Farm Bureau boards are becoming increasingly valuable. This position helps keep a pulse on what is happening in our backyards. Keeping members informed and ready to speak up for or against local issues facing us in the countryside. It seems that activist groups are getting more and more aggressive towards implementing laws to destroy agriculture as we know it. We need to now, more than ever, speak with one unified voice.

This is a year of building at Wisconsin Farm Bureau. We need to keep our counties and districts strong. Plan to participate in our district events and bring a new person along. They may become a new member or a good friend to lean on when the going gets tough. Plan to stretch out of your comfort zone as we head into another year.

WFBF YFA Conference and Annual Meeting

Delegates from District 8 and the other eight districts throughout Wisconsin gathered on Monday, Dec. 5 at the 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting to set the policy for the organization.

The policies that were discussed came directly from the members who propose and vote on resolutions at county Farm Bureau annual meetings

Thank you to those who were delegates from District 8's counties. The number of delegates that each county receives is based on the number of voting members the county has by the end of the membership year, Sept. 30. Serving as delegates were:

- **Clark County:** Clark Turner, Duane Boon, Tom Shafto and Walter Schuette
- **Lincoln County:** Jim Yates and Geoff Depies
- **Marathon County:** Josh Schmidt, Kelly King, Keith Kreager, Dwight Tolk, William Litzer, Bill Mueller and Dave Hannemann
- **Portage County:** Nathan Wolosek, John Herman, Jeff Dombrowski, John Eron and LeRoy Miller
- **Price County:** Todd Cummings
- **Taylor County:** Rob Klussendorf and Gary Kohn
- **Wood County:** Josh Calaway, Bruce Pankratz, Bryan Haumschild, Amy Sue Vruwink and Loren Scheunemann

Additionally, thank you to Josh Calaway for representing District 8 on the state policy development committee.



WFBF Announces Sustainability Statement and Resources for Farmers

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation announced an organization-wide sustainability statement and additional resources for farmers during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

The statement was created by a small group of Farm Bureau members that are engaged in sustainability and conservation on their farm and in their communities.

St. Croix Farm Bureau member Leslie Svacina participated in the working group tasked with creating the statement.

"I enjoyed collaborating with other like-minded individuals to create the WFBF sustainability statement," shared Leslie. "Even though we come from different types of farms: crops, livestock, sizes, practices and regions, we all share the same goal of caring for our natural resources so we can continue our work in agriculture."

Other members included Pete Badkte, Green Lake County; Lindsay Baneck, Jefferson County; Joe Bragger, Buffalo County; Ray Diedrich, Brown County; Robert Nigh, Crawford County; Tony Peirick, Dodge County; Chris Pollack, Fond du Lac County; and AV Roth, Crawford County.

"At Wisconsin Farm Bureau, we all have a responsibility to make a positive impact to protect our natural resources and preserve our livelihood and communities to ensure the success of future generations."



Nate and Rebekah Gustafson were the recipients of a weed trimmer, donated by R Braun Inc in St. Nazianz, for sharing their sustainability story during the WFBF Annual Meeting Trade Show.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is proud to announce an organization-wide sustainability statement and additional resources for farmers.

The statement was created by a small group of Farm Bureau members that are engaged in sustainability and conservation on their farms and in their communities. These members included Pete Badkte, Green Lake County; Lindsay Baneck, Jefferson County; Joe Bragger, Buffalo County; Ray Diedrich, Brown County; Robert Nigh,

Crawford County; Tony Peirick, Dodge County; Chris Pollack, Fond du Lac County; AV Roth, Crawford County; and Leslie Svacina, St. Croix County.

WFBF's statement directly states how the organization interprets the broad area of sustainability. The statement is as follows:

"At Wisconsin Farm Bureau, we all have a responsibility to make a positive impact to protect our natural resources and preserve our livelihood and communities to ensure the success of future generations."

The statement highlights the three pillars of sustainability – environmental conservation, economic viability and community

involvement. Farm Bureau members are innovators and conservation leaders. They are involved in their communities and fueling local economies. Finally, Farm Bureau members are passing their legacies on to the next generation.

"Sustainability is unique and relative to each community, each farm and each family. This statement outlines our priorities as an organization and defines what sustainability means to us as farmers and agriculturists on the frontlines," added Krentz.

The sustainability statement is housed on a new webpage on the WFBF website. This webpage will serve as a hub for sustainability and conservation-related information. It is a tool for members and farmers to find upcoming events, new ideas and other resources related to preserving the future of agriculture. The permanent hub of information for members can be found at wfbf.com/programs/sustainability.

During the WFBF Annual Meeting a video presentation was shown with comments by American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall.

"We applaud Wisconsin Farm Bureau for their commitment to sharing agriculture's sustainability story. You are setting a great example for others to follow, and we can't wait to see what you accomplish next," said Duvall.

If you are interested in learning more about WFBF's sustainability initiatives and activities, please contact Rachel Gerbitz, WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships, rgerbitz@wfbf.com or 608.828.5709.



One of the many highlights of the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting is being able to bid on silent auction items. Members and county Farm Bureau's donated items for the silent auction and raised \$13,508 for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Thank You

to all the county Farm Bureaus and members across the state who donated fun items, great baskets, delicious Wisconsin products, packages, gift certificates and hand-made items to the silent auction at the 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting. Proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit programs funded by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation including Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Promotion and Education, Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and the Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls. With more than \$13,500 raised, we will be able to continue to support agriculture education and leadership development programs.

Grace, Grit and 1%



Ashleigh Calaway

WFBF District 8 Coordinator

As farmers I think we are all guilty of offering grace to those that need it but forgetting that we ourselves need it as well. We are the first ones to show up to offer a hand to our neighbors but are instantly embarrassed or struggle to accept when a neighbor does it for us.

About six months after my accident, I had a friend say to me, “Ashleigh you need to offer the same grace to yourself that you offer everyone else in your life.” That statement has stuck with me ever since.

We are all guilty of beating ourselves up when something breaks on the farm or when livestock dies even though we tried everything to save it. I recently read a quote that says, “Grace is the face that love wears when it meets imperfection”; how true is that?

The problem lies in us being able to do that for ourselves. I recently started walking; no, I am not doing it as part of a New Year’s resolution but to go along with my 2023 Words of the Year: grace and grit. 2022 was a year filled with challenges: I had to learn a whole new way of working, juggling my personal and professional life, and coming to terms with who I was now. It was also the year I lost one of my most treasured mentors and my faithful four-legged companion just days apart and just before Christmas.

To help process such great loss, I started walking. Each day, I let my mind wander on these walks. Sometimes it takes me to some insightful thoughts, sometimes some high emotions, but every time it reminds me that I am capable of doing hard things. It reminds me that I, like you, have grit.

I am that person who puts everything she has into an orphan calf only to watch it die, the person who can make the call to put an animal down even when all I want is for it to live forever, the person who can pick up all the pieces and put them back together when all I want to do is cry.

I can also be the person to offer the same amount of grace to myself that I offer to others. I can be the one to forgive myself for mistakes, for

failing, for not quite being who I want to be, yet.

The best part about all of this is that you are that person, too! You can do all the hard things this life throws at you, as well. You can make the call to put yourself first, to love yourself like you do your family and farm and to offer yourself grace when needed.

I think as farmers and agriculturists we tend to put ourselves into everything else but ourselves. We like to push ourselves to the limit and feel that we have to do it on our own. I want you to know that’s not the case.

In 2019, we collectively as a district decided to focus on one purpose, “supporting our agricultural community”, that purpose has driven us to hit some pretty hard subjects and address needs that are hitting you at home.

In 2019, we launched our Agricultural Incident Training Guide to help our first responders, fire fighters and law enforcement better understand how to handle equipment and the dangers on the farm.

In 2020, we launched our Farmer-to-Farmer Program, a volunteer database made up of members from across the district that are willing to help another member when they need it. (Barn fire, unexpected accident/health emergency, etc). To sign up, visit wfbf.com’s about tab, click “County Farm Bureaus” and click on your county’s page.

We launched #FarmerTalks district wide in 2021, focusing on timely topics that might be impacting you on the farm. We also launched

Soil Your Undies, a self-guided contest to understand soil microbial activity where you live.

This past year, we partnered with The Joyful Mind, LLC. to offer miniseries on addressing the balance of one’s self-care and their families as well as a guest column for our newsletter.

This year, we are looking to partner up to address farmer health, specifically heart health. So, watch for more information.

So, stick with us... the best has yet to come because, as Braxten Nielsen shared in his keynote address at the 2023 Young Farmers and Agriculturist Conference, your only goal is to shoot for 1% better than you were the day before. If we can do that together, we will all be 365% better than we were the year before.



Hey!

We want to hear from YFA members like you! Scan the bale and let us know what you want to do this year.

Soil Fertility in Pastures: Manage Potassium to Manage Nitrogen

Jason Cavadini

Grazing Outreach Specialist, UW Division of Extension

Soil seems to be the hot button topic of nearly every farmer-focused event and agricultural publication these days. While it's ironic that this resource, which predates modern agriculture itself, has become the rising star of modern agriculture, it's appropriate because soil is the foundation of everything we do.

Few would argue that the health and long-term productivity of our soil is the most critical factor for the future of agriculture and society. It is that logic that has driven the regenerative agriculture movement, along with the emphasis on the soil health principles: minimize soil disturbance, keep the soil covered, maintain living roots in the soil, maximize plant diversity and integrate livestock. Soil health is increasingly being researched, demonstrated, promoted and embraced across the land. Great gains are being made because of this work, but care should be taken to not overlook other critical components of an agricultural system.

One of the critical aspects sometimes taken for granted in grazing systems is soil fertility. It could be easy to master all five soil health principles and the many benefits they offer and make the mistake of thinking that the system will automatically have optimal soil fertility. However, soil fertility must be actively managed, even when soil health best management practices are in place. Pastures provide the perfect opportunity to see the importance of managing soil fertility and soil health together.

Soil Fertility is Not Straightforward in Grazing Systems

Not all pastures are the same, largely because not all grazing is created equal. A well-managed grazing system meets all five soil health principles. Such a system is likely built on a diverse, perennial forage base and can be further characterized by proper residual left behind after grazing (4-6" recommended), long rest periods before re-grazing (30 days or more), and frequent moving of livestock from paddock to paddock.

This is not only a highly functional soil health system but also a high-recycling nutrient environment resulting in a significant amount of fertility being returned to the soil. Approximately 80% of nutrients are returned to the soil in a managed-grazing system. The high rate of nutrient return has huge implications when managing soil fertility for economic optimization. It also means that soil fertility in pastures is not as straightforward as in other cropping systems.

All livestock agriculture removes nutrients from the soil. This often occurs through harvesting feed. In grazing scenarios, this may include feed for winter months. Nutrient removal also occurs every time a cow is milked, a steer is slaughtered or an animal is sold at market – meat, milk, and livestock all carry nutrients derived from the soil. A system that includes both grazing and harvesting forages is adding and removing nutrients from the soil at different rates. Balancing nutrients in this system must begin by taking inventory of the total nutrient input and corresponding outputs.

Start With Soil Sampling

A routine soil sample taken every three to four years will indicate levels of phosphorus (P), potassium (K), acidity (pH), and organic matter (OM) that currently exist in the soil. Managing pH is the first order of business because it influences the availability of all other nutrients. A grass/legume pasture should have a pH somewhere around 6.3.

While P and K are the only nutrients indicated by the routine analysis because they are often the most limiting nutrients, there are 15 other nutrients essential to plant growth. Nitrogen (N) receives the most attention because of its influence on grass yield, but it is not indicated by routine soil tests because it is dynamic and difficult to measure.

Like other cropping systems, pasture soil fertility usually comes down to managing N, P, and K (assuming that pH and micronutrients are in balance). Of those, P often ranks third in importance as many grazing systems occur where there's been a history of livestock resulting in high levels of P already in the system. Soil fertility in pastures often comes down to managing for N and K.

Managing Nitrogen

Nitrogen is very mobile and short-lived in the soil. Thus, applications of N fertilizer must be viewed as only benefiting the next harvest or grazing event. The University of Wisconsin guidelines (Extension Publications A2809 and A4034) suggest a seasonal requirement of approximately 130 lbs N/acre for grass pastures, split into two or three applications. However, the average pasture consists of grass mixed with legumes – which have the ability to fix nitrogen.

Applications of N are generally not recommended for grass/legume mixes because it causes grass to outcompete legumes, to the detriment of legume persistence. While a low application (40 lbs N/acre) of fertilizer at spring green-up or before late-summer stockpiling can be economical, the best management strategy for N in pastures is to maintain legumes. This is achieved through the combination of good grazing management and other nitrogen-building measures, such as interseeding or frost-seeding legumes.

Managing Potassium

Potassium, in contrast to N, is not very mobile. It is attached to soil particles, and, if the soil is protected, K is stable. However, K is removed from the soil in large quantities through forage – grazed or harvested.

It cannot be emphasized enough that K is critical to legume persistence. The seasonal requirement for a grass/legume pasture is approximately 180 lbs K/acre. A pasture that is only grazed and not harvested, with 80% of nutrients being returned to the soil in the form of manure, plant residue and biological activity, will still be 40-60 lbs K/acre short of the seasonal requirement. That deficit may vary from season to season but left unaddressed can compound and ultimately lead to K-deficiency.

While it may be a slow decline when only grazing is occurring, harvesting hastens the mining process. A modest forage yield of three tons/acre (dry matter) will remove approximately 150 lbs K/acre. This is why one season of harvesting can have a drastic effect on the forage composition of a pasture. The first sign of K deficiency in a pasture is often the departure of legumes. Conversely, the first response from applications of K is often the reappearance of legumes.

Manage Potassium to Manage Nitrogen

As stated, soil fertility in many pastures often comes down to managing nitrogen and potassium. It is important to understand how these two are linked. Even a well-managed grazing system is not likely to maintain sufficient levels of N and K long-term. A helpful rule of thumb is potassium feeds legumes, legumes provide nitrogen, nitrogen feeds grass. Under that logic, here is a good strategy for cost-effectively managing soil fertility in grazing systems:

1. Soil test – every three to four years.
2. Nitrogen – manage for legumes.
3. Phosphorus – only fertilize if the soil test indicates below optimum.
4. Potassium – fertilize at removal rate: frequently if making hay, occasionally if grazing only.
5. Legumes – allow to flower once per season, frost seed occasionally, maintain potassium.
6. Consider cost-effective nutrient sources such as applied manure or overwintering on pasture.
7. Forage test – occasionally, a hay analysis can be used to estimate nutrient removal rate.

The Four Pillars of Mental Health



Carissa Weber, MA, LPC, CSAC, IDP-AT
The Joyful Mind, LLC.

So many people are scared to talk about mental health. Why is that? We all have mental health, right? I want to share with you what mental health really is and how to ensure you stay mentally healthy this upcoming year.

When you think about the health of your farm, what does that entail? For some, it is making

sure their herd and flocks get appropriate nutrition and care. For others, being able to know what your soil needs so you can fertilize it accordingly. Mental health is just like taking care of your farm.

To be mentally healthy, you need the following four pillars: nutrition, physical activity, rest and stress management.

Nutrition

To say there is downtime on a farm would be lying. There is always something that needs to be done, prepped or monitored. Our nutrition is not any different.

When we eat at regular times (and eat things that might not otherwise come from a gas station or fast food), we are helping ourselves stay mentally healthy in a couple of different ways. First, when we eat at regular intervals, our blood sugar stays level. This means we will not get that weird anxiety feeling when we're super hungry, or get irritable and angry for no reason. Second, eating at regular intervals allows our body to produce a chemical called serotonin which is directly correlated with feeling good, calm and happy.

Along with eating at regular periods, eating certain foods can increase serotonin production. When we eat things in their whole state, like fruits and vegetables, our body will naturally produce more serotonin. If we can get our body to produce more of what makes us happy, that means we are more alert and present our farms and families.

Physical Activity

Farming is a very physically demanding role for those involved. When we talk about physical activity, it might escape your mind that as you are moving you are improving your mental health.

Physical activity is directly correlated with the release of endorphins known to: reduce both physical and emotional pain, improve attention and motivation, and increase quality of sleep. So, the next time you are moving around your farm, give yourself credit for doing something that improves your mental health!

Rest

The reality is our body needs rest, period. For example, if you were to look at animals, what happens when animals are not allowed to rest when they are sick? They don't recover nearly as fast.

When you take time to rest, your body repays you by releasing a chemical called GABA. This little chemical is related to relaxing muscle tension, decreasing headaches and decreasing the production of the stress hormone, cortisol.

By choosing to take some downtime, typically

between 20 and 30 minutes, to let your brain rest, you can start to notice a natural decrease in stress levels, improved communication with the people around you and a quicker time falling asleep.

Stress Management

What comes to your mind when you think of stress management? Is it taking a bubble bath or squeezing a stress ball? If so, stress management is way more than that.

For farmers, stress is part of our daily lives. Whether it be forces outside of our control (like the weather or milk prices), or in our control (like regular field and machine maintenance), stress comes as naturally to us as farming. But with stress comes some nasty side effects, including chronic headaches, irritability, and increased risk of heart disease, anxiety and depression.

Stress management can come in a variety of different ways. Whether it is taking time away to go on that fishing trip with your friends, allowing yourself to focus on just one task at a time, or even talking to someone, taking care of your stress levels has a direct effect on productivity and income levels.

How to Ask for Help

Asking for help can be a very scary thing. For some, asking for help means that you're admitting weakness or vulnerability, which can be very overwhelming if your schedule is already full. Likewise, it can be just as scary to ask how someone is doing because we might not know what is helpful to say in that moment.

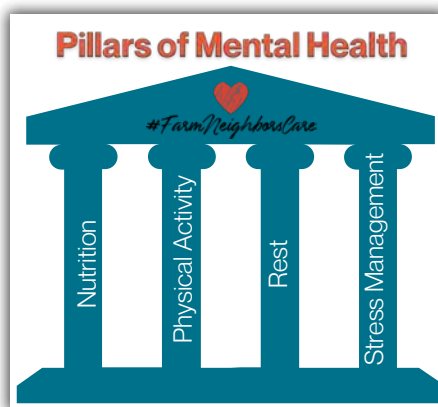
If you find yourself in that boat where you need to ask for help, there is a couple of simple ways to do so:

- **Ask over text.** As weird as it sounds, asking a friend, family member, farmhand or fellow farmer over text allows you to get to the point.
- **Say what you need.** If sharing how stressed or alone you are isn't your cup of tea, ask for help in a different way. This could be as simple as saying, "Can you give me a hand with this tractor?" or "I would appreciate it if we could grab a cup of coffee."
- **Talk to your animals.** We have a close connection with our animals. Telling them what you are going through is a great way to unload some of those heavier emotions knowing they will not share that information with the world.

Now, if you are someone who is noticing other people struggling, there is a supportive way to be there for them:

- **Check-in on them.** Whether it is a text or stopping by the farm, asking if someone is okay lets them know you are here for them.
- **Listen!** Sometimes, we feel like we need to have the answers for someone. Most of the time, I have found that people want a sounding board. Listening is the most powerful thing you can do for someone.
- **Know your local resources.** Sometimes, in the darkest situations, we need to initiate some sort of help for those we care about. Know your local resources so you can help them find the additional support they need in the most respectful way.

Sometimes, life can get overwhelming and we don't know where to turn. If you keep these four pillars in mind, and allow yourself to focus on them, you can improve your overall stress levels on the farm.



NSAID Use Around Calving



Heather Schlessner

UW-Madison Extension Marathon County Dairy Educator

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, are a class of drugs that inhibit the enzyme cyclooxygenase (COX), which causes a decrease in the amount of prostaglandin produced. Two primary forms of COX have been reported. COX-1 activity is mainly responsible for day-to-day physiological functions, such as maintaining gut and kidney function. COX-2 activity is generally induced under specific conditions, such as inflammation (Fitzpatrick et al., 2004; Vane & Botting, 1996). Therefore, inhibition of COX-2 is thought to account for most of the therapeutic effects of NSAIDs, while the inhibition of COX-1 likely accounts for most of the undesirable side effects such as gastrointestinal irritation, renal toxicity, and inhibition of blood clotting (Lees et al., 2004).

Why would we want to use NSAIDs?

The three-week period before and after calving is one of the most challenging times for dairy cattle because they must cope with physiological challenges such as decreased dry matter intake, impaired immune system function, and increased metabolic and systemic inflammation (Drackley, 1999; LeBlanc, 2010). After calving, inflammation has been documented in cattle (Bionaz et al., 2007; Huzzy et al., 2009). This suggests that cattle experience some degree of inflammation due to tissue damage associated with birthing and the immense metabolic demand associated with the onset of lactation (Bradford et al., 2015). Stress and inflammation related to calving can increase the incidence of diseases such as mastitis and clinical metritis (Gill, 2020). It is believed that using an NSAID will help to reduce the inflammation associated with calving and thus decrease the incidence of disease.

Do they work?

That answer depends on the NSAID you are using. Most NSAIDs available for animal use inhibit both COX enzymes with varying selectivity. This means the results vary depending on the NSAID you are giving. In this article, we will review the research findings of three NSAIDs, flunixin meglumine, meloxicam, and acetylsalicylic acid, for you to determine if they work.

Flunixin meglumine: Flunixin meglumine is currently the only FDA-approved NSAID for use in beef and dairy cattle and requires a prescription from your veterinarian. Flunixin meglumine (ex. Banamine®) is approved to control fever due to bovine respiratory tract disease, mastitis, and the control of inflammation associated with endotoxemia (Smith et al., 2008). Flunixin meglumine is a COX-1 and COX-2 inhibitor but is more selective for COX-1 (Beretta et al., 2005).

Newby et al. (2016) looked into the efficacy of using flunixin meglumine to decrease inflammation and, thus, associated diseases after calving. In their study, they administered two treatments of flunixin meglumine (50 mg/ ml) intravenously. The first 72 animals enrolled in the study were randomly divided between the treatment group (n = 34) and the placebo group (n = 38). Treated animals received an injection of flunixin meglumine when they were moved into the calving pen immediately pre-calving and again 18 to 36 hours later during the morning lockup. Animals receiving the placebo treatment



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received an injection of saline when they were moved into the calving pen immediately pre-calving and again 18 to 36 hours later during the morning lockup. Shortly after beginning the study, it was determined that the animals treated so far with flunixin meglumine had an increased stillbirth rate. This outcome forced the researchers to change the study design. Therefore, the treatment protocol was modified, so the remaining animals enrolled in the study received an injection of flunixin meglumine about an hour after calving and a second injection about 24 hours after calving. Those animals receiving the placebo treatment received their first saline injection about an hour after calving and about 24 hours after calving.

Newby et al. found that animals treated with flunixin meglumine had greater odds of having a fever, which was generally associated with mastitis or metritis. Forty-nine percent of the animals with a fever were in the mastitis or metritis group. Of the 51% of animals with a fever not in the mastitis or metritis groups, 48% had a fever within the first two days following calving. Flunixin meglumine also increased both the odds of retained placenta and the odds of metritis. The researchers also analyzed the milk production records of the 1,265 animals enrolled in the study for the first 14 days in milk and found that the flunixin meglumine-treated animals produced 1.6 kg/day less milk compared to the animals that received the placebo. Given these results and that flunixin meglumine

Drug	Route of administration	Milk withdrawal (d)	Meat withdrawal (d)
Flunixin meglumine	IV	2	4
Meloxicam	Oral	5	21
Meloxicam	IV or Sub-Q	5	15
Aspirin	Oral	1	1

administration before calving resulted in a five-fold increase in the number of stillborn calves, these researchers do not recommend using flunixin meglumine in cattle around the time of calving.

Meloxicam: Meloxicam has been approved for use in cattle in many European countries and Canada but not in the United States. However, if you have a valid veterinary client-patient relationship, Meloxicam can be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for extra-label drug use in cattle. Meloxicam is known to be a preferential COX-2 inhibitor, thus targeting inflammatory processes rather than physiological functions (Newby et al., 2013, 2014). Swartz et al. (2018) were the first researchers to examine the effects of meloxicam administration pre- and post-calving. In their study, they gave 1 mg/ kg of meloxicam by mouth either 48 to 6 hours before calving or within 12 hours after calving. Those receiving meloxicam before calving also received a placebo within 12 hours after calving. The group of animals that received the bolus of meloxicam after calving also received a placebo bolus 48 to 6 hours before calving. The control animals received a placebo bolus both before and after calving.

These researchers found that treatment either before or after calving with meloxicam did not affect the incidence of retained placenta, metritis,

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or rectal temperature. However, these researchers saw an increase in milk production in those animals receiving meloxicam that did not have difficulty calving. Animals that received meloxicam before calving and did not have a hard birthing produced 4.3 kg/d more milk than the animals that had no issue calving and received meloxicam after calving. When meloxicam was administered before calving, there was no increase in the number of stillborn calves compared to controls. It is important to note that it is illegal to use extra-label drug usage to enhance animal performance (including milk production). Since there appears to be no therapeutic benefit of using meloxicam before or after calving, increased milk production would be the only benefit (Swartz et al., 2018).

Acetylsalicylic Acid: Acetylsalicylic acid (ex., Aspirin) is not approved by the FDA for use in lactating dairy cattle in the United States; dairy producers must consult with a licensed veterinarian before implementing treatments utilizing these products even though they are available over the counter. Use of these products without the consent of a licensed veterinarian is illegal. Acetylsalicylic acid is a weak inhibitor of both COX isoforms. Its beneficial effects are attributed to its ability to block the function of COX-2. Barragan et al. (2020) looked at the effects of treating cattle with acetylsalicylic acid after calving; cattle received

100 mg/ kg of acetylsalicylic acid in two boluses by mouth. Those animals in the treatment group received their first treatment in the maternity facility within 12 hours of delivery. Three additional treatments were provided at 12-hour intervals. Animals treated with the placebo were given gelatin capsules filled with water within 12 hours of calving and at three additional treatment times provided at 12-hour intervals.

These researchers found that a lower proportion of cows treated with

acetylsalicylic acid developed clinical metritis at 7 ± 3 days in milk, and fewer tended to develop clinical endometritis at 50 ± 10 days in milk compared to untreated cows. These researchers also looked at milk production differences between treated and untreated animals. Overall, cows that received acetylsalicylic acid produced 1.82 kg/ day more milk than those receiving the placebo during the first 30 days in milk. When these researchers looked at the differences between the animals having calving difficulty (dystocia), they discovered that cows that had experienced dystocia and received acetylsalicylic acid produced 4.48 kg/ day more milk than cows with dystocia and did not receive acetylsalicylic acid. The effect of acetylsalicylic acid usage was not as pronounced in cows that had a normal calving indicating that treatment may be more beneficial for animals experiencing dystocia (Barragan et al., 2020). To date, no study has been conducted that provides acetylsalicylic acid before calving, so we do not know its effects on stillbirth.

Conclusions

Before using any of the discussed NSAIDs, it is essential to work with your veterinarian and determine the best protocol and drug for your farm. In addition, it is essential to note that all NSAID treatments have milk and meat withdrawal times that should be considered. Discarding milk when using these drugs is required to prevent the sale of milk contaminated by drug residues.

Peer Reviewed By:

Jackie McCarville, Extension Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties
Sandra Stutgen, Extension Taylor County

Essay Contest Due April 1



Encourage your fourth and fifth grade students to participate in this year's essay contest! The essay contest is open to students in public

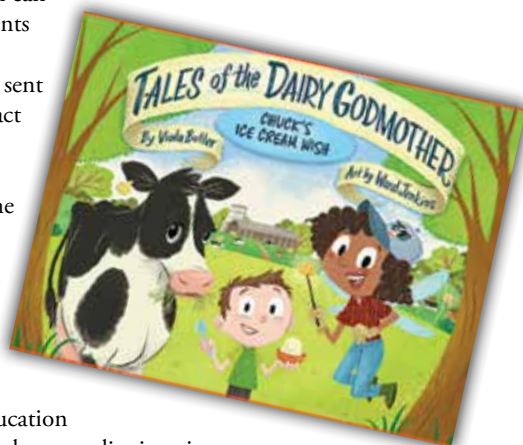
schools, private schools and home school programs. The essay entry deadline is postmarked by April 1, 2023.

For the most up-to-date list of essay contest information, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website wisagclassroom.org. Essay contest information can be found in the events and activities tab.

Essays should be sent to the county contact listed below or on the website. Each county will have one winner that will move on to the district contest. Among the county winners, the District 2

Promotion and Education representative will select one district winner that will be forwarded to the state contest.

This year's topic is "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy". The topic relates to the Book of the Year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler.



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Farmers Sought for Study on Balance

By Dr. Florence Becot, National Farm Medicine Center



Farm and ranch parents know how challenging it can be to balance children and work, especially when childcare options (paid or unpaid) are limited. These challenges can have consequences for the farm business, the safety of children and the well-being of the family as a whole. To better understand farm and ranch families' lived realities balancing children and work, researchers at the National Farm Medicine Center and The Ohio State University are asking farmers to share their experiences through a new national survey.

"We recognize that farmers often feel over-surveyed and have limited time and energy this time of year," said Florence Becot, Ph.D., an associate research scientist at the National Farm Medicine Center and affiliate of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. "However, we also know that decisions are being made by local, state and national policymakers without a good grounding in the realities faced by actual farm families."

The survey is especially timely, Becot said, because this is a Farm Bill year, and some farm organizations and policymakers are debating if

affordable childcare in rural areas should become a priority.

As one Ohio farm parent told Becot and co-PI Shoshana Inwood, Ph.D. during a focus group last year: "If America wants farmers, we need help with child care."

The survey will provide important information about what solutions could look like. The results of the survey will be available later in the year and will be shared with farmers, farm organizations, state agencies and policymakers.

Farm and ranch families can respond to the survey online through this link: redcap.link/Survey2_FarmersRaisingChildren.

They can also request a paper survey by contacting project lead: Dr. Florence Becot at 715.389.9379 or via email at becot.florence@marshfieldresearch.org.



Apply Now for County Farm Bureau Scholarships

Clark County

\$500 Scholarship

Applications due April 1

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/clark/

Lincoln County

\$500 Scholarship

Applications due March 31

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/lincoln/

Portage County

\$500 Scholarship

Applications due April 1

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/portage/

Price County

\$500 Scholarship

Applications due April 1

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/price/

Taylor County

\$500 Scholarship

Applications due April 1

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/taylor/

Wood County

Up to \$1,000 Scholarship

Applications due April 1

Scholarship details and applications are available at wfbf.com/about/counties/wood/

Clark County

wfbf.com/about/counties/clark/
ClarkCountyFarmBureau

If There's a Better, More Accurate Way of Measuring Methane, Why Aren't We Using It?



Kim Bremmer

Clark County Local Affairs Chair

"A reliable way to make people believe in falsehoods is frequent repetition, because familiarity is not easily distinguished from the truth." – Daniel Kahneman

Cattle continue to take a beating in most climate change discussions, and I suspect this will only continue as the newly appointed dietary guidelines advisory committee begins meeting to perform the mandatory five-year update to the USDA Dietary Guidelines. We already see European school curriculum in place, developed by the World

Wildlife Fund (WWF), promoting how children should eat to lower their individual carbon footprint, which includes "low impact food for a year: no meat, cheese only once a month, pulses, beans, potatoes, carrots, bread, apple, other local seasonal fruit and vegetables."

Meanwhile, the curriculum also teaches that "high impact foods" include meat and cheese, wine, beer, fast-food, highly processed foods, etc. The message that cattle are bad for the environment is frequently repeated, explaining why many believe it to be true.

We know the primary contributor to climate change from cattle is the greenhouse gas, methane. Greenhouse gases are valued using a calculation called Global Warming Potential (GWP), which essentially measures how potent a gas is as a contributor to climate change. The most used metric

Turn to METHANE | Page 9

Continued from METHANE | Page 8

is known as GWP100, which looks at the global warming potential of a greenhouse gas over 100 years.

But recently, scientists at Oxford University discovered a flaw in the GWP100 measurements, because the calculation assumes that all greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for centuries. We know that is not the case for methane, as it is part of the natural biogenic carbon cycle that's been occurring for thousands of years. Methane (CH₄) is a short-lived gas that breaks down into CO₂ and water in approximately 12 years.

That CO₂, as atmospheric carbon, is then sequestered by plants and transformed into carbohydrates (remember...CO₂ is plant food!). Those carbohydrates are then eaten by cattle and emitted back into the atmosphere as methane and CO₂ when cows burp...and the cycle repeats.

This is an important fact, since CO₂ emitted from the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal are considered long-lived "stock gases", because they accumulate in the atmosphere over time and take hundreds of years to break down.

The GWP100 calculation does not account for this removal of methane from the atmosphere and overestimates methane's effects on global temperatures by a factor of three to four, according to the CLEAR Center at UC Davis. There is a more accurate calculation that considers how

methane is essentially recycled and removed from the atmosphere, and it's known as GWP* (pronounced "G-W-P-star").

However, policy and programs like the Net Zero Initiative (NZI), the voluntary U.S. dairy industry commitment from DMI to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality, are not taking this new and more accurate metric into consideration. If GWP* is a better means of determining if the world is on track to reach specific temperature goals, why wouldn't our industry adjust and use it? Since when is it "too much work" to do the right thing?

Dairy farmers are expected to continually improve, so why would we continue to use an equation that is a misrepresentation of methane, overestimating the cow's contribution to global warming patterns by over three-fold, when there is a proven better way? Whose responsibility is it to demand more from the largest checkoff and hold them accountable to get this right?

We've all heard the expression, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." While farmers are feeling the squeeze from endless regulations and walking on the path of the voluntary Net Zero Initiative, my hope is that DMI and policymakers get this right...our future licenses to farm may depend on it.

Lincoln County

wfbf.com/about/counties/lincoln
LincolnCountyFarmBureau

Brought to you by: Lincoln County Farm Bureau - Dairy Committee

Dairy Breakfast

SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH AT THE MARC 8 AM - NOON

Marathon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marathon
MarathonCountyFarmBureau

CARD PARTY NIGHT

Do you miss the good old days of playing cards at the kitchen table after milking? Do you wish that you could play cards with a group of people again? Well, wish no longer and join us at the Homestead Restaurant for an evening of card playing. No experience is necessary. The games we play will depend on the expertise of those that attend.

Cost: \$0, but feel free to eat dinner while playing a hand of cards

Location: Homestead Restaurant | 162765 WI-52, Wausau, WI 54403

When: April 12th, 2023



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Remembering George Blomberg

Price County Farm Bureau celebrates the life and legacy of George Blomberg. George had been an active member of Price County Farm Bureau for 20 years. Prior to serving on our board of directors, he was also active in Barron County and Superior Shores Farm Bureaus.

George wore a variety of hats during his time on the board but his favorites by far were as the Ag in the Classroom coordinator and membership chair.

It is said that George never met a stranger, he simply met a friend he didn't know well yet. He had a deep-rooted passion for the agriculture industry and the people that make it up. We thank the Blomberg family, especially his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Hope, for sharing him with us for so many years with us.



So God Made the Advocate

God looked down on the paradise he created knowing that he had made the farmer, the agriculturist and the teacher. He noticed he was missing one critical piece: the advocate.

He needed someone to combine the love of the land and animals with a deep love of teaching and unfettered passion for agriculture into one. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would get their hands dirty with the farmer and help them advocate for the land and animals they love. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would spend their days working with the youth to help connect them with the farmer who grows their food and the agriculturists that helped the farmer grow and process it. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would not only work beside the farmer and the agriculturist but the teacher to help develop and implement classroom resources. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would sit on the school board, town board and various committees. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone that would speak out on issues that directly impact agriculture. Someone who would be a team player, fair in their dealings and willing to sit at the negotiating table. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would walk beside their fellow consumers and share the truth of agriculture. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would be a pillar of their community. Someone that would be active in their church, school and support local businesses. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone that farmers, agriculturists, teachers and the youth alike could count on to be there. Someone who would listen, care, provide unconditional love and support for agriculture and the people who make it up. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone that would work a fulltime job but still make time to be there for their own family, friends and community. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone that would bring farmers and agriculturists together for the common cause of protecting and preserving the industry they love. So God made the advocate.

He needed someone who would light a spark that would never go out and live on in the lives of everyone who had the pleasure of working with them. So God made the advocate.

Horse Pull & Beef Cookout

07.08.23 | 11 AM - Lunch | 12 PM - Pull Starts
Pioneer Park, Ogema

From the Presidents Desk



Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

Taylor County Farm Bureau had another great year!

We achieved our new voting membership gain in March awarding us additional funds in which we used to help sponsor our first youth scholarship. We hit our voting membership gain and had a total membership gain for the first time in years.

Taylor County members Joe and Christy Tomandl won the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award and were recognized at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

In early November, we set goals for the coming year. We are excited about our plan of work and look forward to an even better year this year advocating for agriculture.

We are starting to find members interested in serving on our Ag in the Classroom program but would love to have a few more. We are planning

to again be involved with the Celebrating Our Wisconsin Specialties (COWS) program with fourth grade classrooms across the county. We are actively working on setting up stations that small groups of students can visit to learn about different aspects of agriculture. We are looking for members to help represent dairy, beef, pork, feed, and ag sales. If you are interested in participating, please let us know.

Don't forget we will be holding our steak and egg breakfast on May 20. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out.

We are also gathering a list of people interested in helping with the AgVenture tent at the Taylor County Fair July 27-30.

If none of this peaks your interest, we are also looking for people interested in being involved with our Local Affairs, Promotion and Education, and Policy Development committees.

As always, I am here to serve you, the members of Taylor County Farm Bureau. Please feel free to reach out if you are interested in joining a committee, volunteering for a day or even an hour, or you have a program idea you want to share. You can reach me by emailing me at rklussendorf@gmail.com

STEAK & EGG BREAKFAST

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORTHWOODS PREMIERE BEEF SHOW: THE NORTHWOODS PREMIERE BEEF SHOW IS HOSTED BY THE TAYLOR COUNTY MARKET ANIMAL SHOW & SALE COMMITTEE (MASS). CLASSES INCLUDE OPEN HEIFERS, JUNIOR STEERS & JACKPOT SHOWMANSHIP. FOR MORE INFORMATION TAYLORCOUNTYMASS@GMAIL.COM

MAY 20, 2022
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM
TAYLOR COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

THE CORNER OF HIGHWAYS 13 & 64

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

\$10.00/ STEAK & EGG PLATE

\$5.00/ EGG & TOAST PLATE

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT HELP FUND OUR AREA YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

From the President's Tractor Cab



Bruce Pankratz

Wood County Farm Bureau President

As we kick off a new year, I want to express my excitement in the direction we are heading as county. This year marks 99 years of Wood County Farm Bureau. A lot has happened over the last 99 years, but one thing hasn't changed: Wood County Farm Bureau has been and

continues to be the voice of farmers.

We hope that you join us this year in being the voice. We are always looking for new people to help with the Ag on the Move program, volunteer in classrooms, help with career days and so much more. If policy development is your thing, we have room at the table. Maybe spending a few hours at the fair scooping ice cream seems more appealing. Either way know that you always have a place at the table and that we value your membership.

2023 WFBF Policy Book Now Available

The 2023 Policy Book has been updated and is available on the WFBF website at wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process.

Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote on them at county Farm Bureau annual meetings. Policy ideas work their way up to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting each December where delegate members vote on the proposals. This process continues at the national level as well.





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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Clark County

Lincoln County

Marathon County

Portage County

Price County

Taylor County

Wood County

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