



Northwest Veterinary Associates, Inc.

Kent Henderson, DVM
Stephen Wadsworth, DVM
Peter Averill, DVM
Allison Maslack, DVM
Jennifer Hull, DVM
Blake Nguyen, DVM
Elizabeth Brock, DVM

February Newsletter

What Do We Do Besides Taking Calls?

As a bit of a different format for our newsletter this month, we would like to share with you what we are each involved with in addition to doing the routine work you typically see us doing.

Dr. Nguyen:

Dr. Nguyen enjoys problem solving and looking for ways to improve dairy performance. Lately, he has been spending a lot of time trying to help producers make low cost, or same cost management changes that will lead to better production and profitability. A lot of best management practices can be implemented through personnel training and attention to detail; without major capital expenditures. Examples of these kinds of projects include examination of milking routines, colostrum management, stockmanship, and reproduction program compliance. Discussing current management practices and performance with one of our veterinarians is a good step towards identifying opportunities and making changes that improve dairy performance.

Dr. Hull:

Dr. Hull became AETA (American Embryo Transfer Association) certified this fall (embryos from flushes can now be exported internationally) and has put together a mobile embryo transfer lab to meet international standards. This certification involved dozens of hours of study for a 6 part written examination. She also has become the Large Animal Health and Continuing Education Committee chair for the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Brock:

If you've seen Dr. Brock on your farm it's likely been to fix a displaced abomasum, dehorn some calves or untwist a uterus. However that's not all she does! Dr. Brock is currently assisting herd veterinarians in evaluating robotic calf barns, including measurements of sanitation and observation of feeding behavior. Even small deviations from protocols can add up to big effects on calf health and ultimately performance of that animal in the herd. Periodic full program evaluations can identify simple areas for improvement that will greatly improve calf growth and production.

Dr. Wadsworth:

As a member of the “old guard”, Dr. Wadsworth thoroughly enjoys continuing to interact with dairy producers. Recently, he has been involved in the Ben and Jerry’s Caring Dairy Program as they develop the Animal Care section and include veterinarians as the auditors for participants. He is also active on the Antibiotic Residue Avoidance Task Force of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association. Steve’s interests on the farm include cow handling (stockmanship), employee management and training, cow comfort, antibiotic residue avoidance programs, Johne’s disease control and calf management.

Dr. Maslack:

Dr. Allison Maslack has been a board member of the Franklin and Grand Isle Farmer's Watershed Alliance (FWA) for over five years. As part of the FWA, she hopes to help enable the local dairy industry through education and funding resources that promote the water quality of Lake Champlain, as well as advocate for our farmers' economic viability. With all the recent policy and enforcement changes regarding water quality, Dr. Maslack continues her involvement in FWA so that she can help promote and defend our clients in their water quality efforts.

