

JUNE 2005

WELCOME! As you all know we've eagerly been awaiting 'help' at Grassland Veterinary Service. June 6 brings the addition of two doctors to our practice! Dr Nathan Marti comes to us from Minnesota with 4 years of dairy practice experience. Dr Nathan is a 2001 graduate of the University of Minnesota. He has practiced in Minnesota, and also for a time in Stratford so he's familiar with life in central Wisconsin. Nathan is originally from a southern Minnesota dairy farm.

Dr Jessica Woodrow, Nathan's spouse, is now a 2005 graduate of Minnesota's School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr Jessica will be working with our Dr Jean providing small animal service in our office. Jessica is originally from the Twin Cities.

The two will be residing in rural Neillsville. Please welcome these two to the area if you meet them. We're excited to have them join our team!

WHAT'S NEW? Pfizer has come out with a new lactating dairy mastitis tube. Spectramast® is a tube made specifically to combat coliform (E coli) mastitis, as well as some Staph and Strep infections. The antibiotic is similar in composition to the antibiotic in Excenel®. Spectramast® has a 72 hour milk discard and zero slaughter hold provided label directions are followed. It is labeled for **once daily** use (like Pirsue®), for up to 8 consecutive days therapy, so the label is safe from a residue standpoint. The Pfizer rep did warn us of one thing; individual cows treated with Spectramast®, if tested with the Snap Test at 72 hours, may occasionally test positive. The problem isn't with the tube withhold. The problem is that the Snap Test sensitivity is too low for individual cow testing. The Snap Test is a bulk tank test! **If label recommendations are followed, Pfizer will guarantee that the milk will be good at 72 hours.** This means NOT using the product twice in a 24 hour period. Follow label directions!

The frustrating issue with coliforms is in treating the quarter. Occasionally cows treated intramammary with any product will respond poorly to treatment. We've seen that happen for years. Interestingly, samples taken from those cows prior to treatment often culture negative. We presume that those cases are coliforms due to the nature of the mastitis and disease in the cow. Coliform mastitis likes to 'hit and run'. Cows frequently flare-up with E coli mastitis, and often self-clear the infection within 12-24 hours. Unfortunately the battle in the quarter may dry that quarter up. Our only suggestion for these circumstances is to stay firm with your J5® program. J5®, also from Pfizer, goes a long way toward reducing the incidence and severity of coliform mastitis. Good consistent J5® use will help you in the battle against coliform mastitis. If you don't seem to be getting good protection from coliforms with J5®, bring it up so we can help you. There may be changes you can make to improve your protection.

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