

Veterinary Care Program - Horticulture/Organic Farm

Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences

Veterinary Care:

Dr. Margaret A. Minch is attending veterinarian with full institutional authority on all veterinary care issues for the Stewartstown Road and Reedsville Farms. Dr. Minch is the director and attending veterinarian at the Food Animal Research Facility (FARF) located at the Stewartstown Rd. Farm, and serves on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Dr. Minch also has teaching responsibilities within the Division, and as Davis College Veterinarian advises pre-veterinary undergraduate students and serves on the Davis-Michael Scholars Oversight Committee.

Dr. Darin Matlick of Keyser, WV is employed by the WVU Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station as clinical assistant professor and veterinarian and is responsible for the University farms at Wardensville and at Potomac State College. He provides back-up emergency care as needed in Morgantown. He has teaching responsibilities at Potomac State College, as well as adjunct visits to WVU Evansdale Campus.

Other back-up veterinary care:

Dr. George Seiler – DVM, U.FI. 1983. Paw Prints Veterinary Clinic, Morgantown; back-up for emergency care in the FARF

Dr. Robert Havern – DVM, OSU 1994. Area veterinarian with practical experience with cattle and sheep; emergencies only.

Qualifications of Veterinary Staff:

Dr. Margaret A. Minch, DVM, OSU, 1995.

1995-2006 – Associate Veterinarian, Casselman Veterinary Services, Inc, Grantsville, MD

2006 – present – Clinical Assistant Professor/Davis College Veterinarian. Experience with large animal practice.

CITI training completed December 2008.

Dr. Darin Matlick, DVM, OSU, 2002.

2002-2003 – Associate Veterinarian, Casselman Veterinary Services, Inc, Grantsville, MD

2003-present – Clinical Assistant Professor/Veterinarian, WV Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station. Experience with small and large animal practice.

CITI training completed 2008.

Surveillance, Treatment and Control Programs

Primary surveillance of farm animals is conducted daily by the farm employees, including daily observation of illness or abnormal behavior.

Stewartstown Road and Reedsville Farms:

Farm Operator – William Jones, M.S. Animal Science, 1973 WVU (B.S., 1967 WVU).
Farm Operator since 1994 with experience with poultry, livestock and dairy; completed the WVU Institutional Animal Welfare Core Course Training 2002.

Stewartstown Rd Farm:

Livestock – John Andrew Holt, BS Agriculture, 1976 WVU. Supervisor since 1989 with experience with beef cows, sheep, and pigs.

Poultry – Harold Kiger, Supervisor since 1995.

FARF – Heather Clemmer Bungard, MS Animal Science, 2003 (BS Animal Science 2000 WVU). Research Assistant I since 2003.

Jennifer Lydon, RVT, 2006 Western School of Health and Business, Pittsburgh, PA.
Veterinary technician at WVU Animal Science Farms with experience with dairy/beef, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses.

WVU Organic Research Farm/Horticulture Farm-

Farm operated by Dr. Barton Baker, Division of Plant and Soil Sciences in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences.

William Bryan, Ph.D. Agronomy and Animal Science 1969.

Experience with cattle, poultry, pigs, sheep and goats. Principal Investigator on all research pertaining to organic sheep production.

Suggested Protocols for the WVU Horticulture/Organic Farm

Tail Docking/Castrating-performed at 1-2 days of age.

Docking- the preferred method is to use a hot knife or sharp blade to remove the tail. A band can be applied in place of using a hot knife. However, this does increase the chance of tetanus.

Castration- the testicles should be exposed by removing the lower third of the scrotal sac, the spermatic cord crushed with the appropriate tool, and the testicles removed by cutting the cord below the crushed area. A band can be applied for the control of bleeding, but, cutting and removing the testicles will help reduce the infection rate and prevent the anaerobic environment in which organisms that cause tetanus thrive.

CD&T Vaccine(manufacturer)- should be given at this time. With a booster 3-4 weeks later followed by another booster 3-4 weeks later for a total of 3 doses.

CD&T Vaccine is then boosted every spring following the initial series.

Foot Rot- Clean foot/affected area well and apply an organically approved topical treatment. A foot wrap is not necessarily helpful and may in fact be contraindicated if swelling of the foot or coronary band has occurred. Systemic antibiotics should be used in extreme cases; either Excenel/Exceed or Penicillin. * Animal is removed from organic use when given antibiotics.*

Abscesses-when affected area of swelling is palpated, a “soft spot” indicates that the abscess has matured and is ready to be lanced. The spot should be disinfected with Iodine or Chlorhexidine and the soft area opened with a clean, sharp blade. The exudate should be removed and the cavity flushed with Iodine, Chlorhexidine, or sterile saline. Adequate drainage following lancing, as well as flushing the wound, can be curative without the use of antibiotics.

Fly Control- Topical fly control should be used as long as the wound is open and wet. In severe cases, Excenel/Exceed or Penicillin should be administered. * Animal is removed from organic use when given antibiotics.*

Neurologic Cases-attending veterinarian should be consulted for all neurologic cases including animals that are stumbling(ataxic) have a head tilt, or are paralyzed in any way(limbs, facial paralysis, etc.). Typical treatment will include Thiamine, Vitamin B Complex, steroids and/or antibiotics. * Animal is removed from organic use when given antibiotics.*

Animal Health/NOSP- all animal handling personnel, including graduate and undergraduate students, are to report any sick animals or abnormal animal behavior to their supervisor. If an animal is on a research protocol, The Principle Investigator is to be notified. When supervisors are not on duty, students should report to the Farm Operator or directly to the

veterinary technician/attending veterinarian. The attending veterinarian determines appropriate treatment for the general farm livestock, poultry and those animals on teaching protocols. Sick animals on research protocols are treated appropriately following consultation with the attending veterinarian by the Principal Investigator. The attending veterinarian has the final authority regarding treatment of sick animals on research protocols. National Organic Standards Practices will be followed as far as animal welfare permits.

Medical Records-all medical records shall contain animal identification, date examined, history, diagnoses, laboratory findings, treatment, progress, outcome, and other significant information as needed. This log is kept by employees at the horticulture/organic farm in the facility office and is reviewed by the attending veterinarian.

Necropsy- all animals will be necropsied following an unexplained death and a necropsy report filed in the appropriate log book.

IACUC Regulations- all animals on research protocols will be necropsied following unexplained death and necropsy reports filed for review by the attending veterinarian and USDA Facility Inspector.

Preventative Programs

Beef Cattle:

All adult animals greater than 12 months are tested annually for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis.

All adult animals are vaccinated annually with a modified live vaccine for Bovine Viral Diarrhea(BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis(IBR), Parainfluenza Virus(P13), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus(BRSV), Leptospirosis 5-way + Hardjobovis(Spirovac L5), Clostridia 7-way(Blackleg), Pinkeye and Rabies.

Internal/External Parasites-all cattle are administered pour-on anthelmintics in spring and fall. Pour-on fly control program begins in April and continues until after the first hard frost. Lice and grub control is administered after the first hard frost in the fall.

Beef Calves- vaccinated for BVD, IBR,P13, BRSV, Spirovac, and Clostridia at 6-8 months of age and booster 3-4 weeks later.

Pinkeye and Clostridia vaccines are administered at 8-12 weeks of age. Internal parasite control is administered in June. External parasite control(flies) begins in April and continues until after the first hard frost. Lice and grub control is administered after the first hard frost in the fall.

Sheep:

Adult sheep on all farms are annually administered Clostridium CD&T and Vibriosis Vaccines.

Adults are dewormed as needed per routine laboratory examination of fecal samples to monitor fecal egg counts. The FAMACHA technique is used to monitor levels of anemia related to infection with *Haemonchus Contortus*.

Lambs are vaccinated with Clostridium CD&T at birth, then boosted 3-4 weeks later and again 3-4 weeks after that.

Poultry:

Poultry are vaccinated prior to arrival on the farm, according to their origin or purpose.

Broilers are vaccinated in ovo at day 18(prior to arrival). Judging poultry are vaccinated for Marek's disease by the supplier, and layers also arrive previously vaccinated according to the supplier's approved protocols.

Roosters undergo beak and spur trimming as needed, following routine husbandry procedures.

Emergency, Weekend and Holiday Care

The Principal Investigator, Dr. William Bryan, schedules Supervisors and Workers so that sufficient work force is available to provide routine and weekend and holiday care of all farm animals. The attending veterinarian is available by cell phone for emergency contact. If the attending veterinarian is unavailable, appropriate back-up veterinarians should be contacted. Emergency contact and procedures are posted in various offices on the farm.

8 September 2009