



From the desk of Dr. Stephanie Roggenbuck  
... February 1, 2015

My first 8 months of practice working with my new family at Thumb Veterinary Services has been a truly gratifying experience. Growing up in the Harbor Beach area gave me a strong advantage to knowing the roads in the area and if there is any doubt... well I always have that "smart" phone to back me up, ha ha. This past summer, I was able to attend local picnics, festivals, and tractor pulls which were a nice change of pace from the university lifestyle. As the weather has changed to our current snowy conditions, I had the opportunity to head to the northern part of Michigan with Kendra our large animal technician for a day of snowboarding/ skiing in which we both came back with no broken bones. I would like to thank all of the wonderful families and individuals that I have been privileged to work with thus far and look forward to meeting everyone else this coming year.

I would like to say that our first calf personnel training was a huge success and we are all very happy with the amazing turnout of attendance and excellent discussion that was had. Diarrhea and the Timing of the Bugs was the topic of the evening in which Dr. Michelle Borek-Stine lead the discussion and identified key signs of each organism and more importantly prevention and successful steps in treatment. Then in our large animal facility we had Dr. Mark Fox demonstrating the exam of young calves, injection sites, and key pointers to successfully performing an IV. We were very privileged to have two excellent demonstration calves (and if you were present with the first calf you know what I am talking about ;) ) provided by Weaverland Dairy (Thank you gentlemen very much!).

These are our next upcoming meetings:

Herdsmen Training: Topic of this evening will be The Art of the Physical Exam on **Wednesday February 4, 2015 starting at 5:00 pm**. Discussion this evening will be going over critical items and key locations on physical exam.

Calf Personnel Training: This evening Dr. Kate Anderson will be covering Feeding, the Ins and Outs of mixing milk and its effects. **Wednesday February 18, 2015 starting at 5 pm**.

Herdsmen Training: This evening will be all on our very important dry cows and preparation for becoming fresh cows. **Wednesday March 4, 2015 starting at 5:00 pm**.

Calf Personnel Training: Topic will be :Keeping a clean house. We all know how very important this is in setting up the success of our future herd. **Wednesday March 18, 2015 starting at 5:00 pm**

### SATURDAY SERVICE

The biggest change we made when we moved to the new building was to not staff the large animal side on Saturdays. The phone is answered by our machine and the doctors are notified that there is a new call, the same as what happens after hours and on Sundays. If the doctor is busy at a call it may take a bit for your call to be answered. It is not being ignored, it is being taken care of the same as any other day. PLEASE be patient. Your repeated calls only interrupt the work they are currently doing.

In further news anyone that is shipping milk will be required to have a signed VCPR( Veterinary Client Patient Relationship) contract. All farms should also have written protocols. Some of you have already received your Protocol book, if you have not please contact your veterinarian. I will also have the booklets on my truck and if I am at your facilities I can help get your protocols started and tailor them to your needs. We plan to have everyone's protocols on farm by March this year.

I would like to leave you with some friendly reminders especially with the cold weather:

- Make sure newly born calves are rubbed dry with warm towels; even using a hair dryer is a cheap and great way to make sure they are nice and dry. The use of calf jackets are also a great addition to help keep calves warm in these cold temperatures.
- As talked about at our first calf training remember that calves obtain all of their immunity from the colostrum they first receive, so make sure they are getting 4 quarts those first two hours of life. With the cold temperatures they will also need more nutrients to stay warm so increasing to 3 times a day feeding greatly improves their success.
- Check all water stations for freezing... Remember that milk is composed of 87% water.
- During milking be sure to check teat ends for cracking and frost bite which can occur very quickly. Dips that contain 50 percent or more emollients are much slower to dry and leave the teats wet leading to faster frost bite in cold temperatures.

**FOR SALE!**  
**2007 Chevy Colorado Extended Cab 4X4**  
**232,000 miles, very good condition**  
**\$7000.00**

We are pleased to announce a new face here at Thumb Veterinary Services! Jeff Dawson has joined the practice as our new practice manager. Jeff and his wife Patricia reside in the Croswell area. Jeff has three children and two step-daughters. The Dawson family raise registered Jersey and Ayrshire dairy cattle that they exhibit at local, state, and national shows. Along with being president of the Croswell fairboard Jeff also judges dairy cattle at county fairs during the summer. Jeff is filling a new position here and we are excited to welcome him to our team.

