

Recently, I had a vet student riding along with me who asked me if I was going to change needles after vaccinating an animal. No, I was not. BUSTED. But wait, why would I not change needles between vaccinating animals? I thought to myself. Another day a new employee asked, "Why does this farm treat 2 sick animals with the same needle and syringe? Isn't that spreading disease?" Yes, it potentially can. BUSTED AGAIN. I knew they did that. Sometimes it is hard to notice our own failings even when we know better.

Challenging times are just that, challenging. In an effort to cut costs, are we spreading more disease and costing ourselves more money while lowering our standards of care? We still must provide the best food product and best animal welfare even in times of struggle. Who better to help us see through the clouds than outsiders? New employees are great sets of these eyes. Especially those who are new to the industry. Ask them what areas seem to not make sense to them. Then ask yourself to explain the why to them. If you cannot justify it, then it is time to change it.

Go be an outsider. Visit your friend's farm, ask the hard questions. Then have that same friend do the same for you. Better to hear it from a friend than an inspector or on an audit.

Reminder: Cows Signals. Learn a different approach to viewing your farm...an outside view with Dr. Mark Fox. Clinic Meeting bring a friend: February 20th:

I will share 2 of my favorite quotes that some days I have to remind myself, "When you know better, do better." Maya Angelou and "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love." St. Teresa of Calcutta

Congratulations to Marco Ver Haar at Red Mountain Jerseys 'Silver Winner at National Dairy Quality Awards'

Stay warm and continue to prove why our producers are the best! ~ Dr. Michelle Borek-Stine

Safety is important!

- ◇ Do not leave syringes and needles in medicine bottles. Bacteria from the needles and syringes can contaminate the very antibiotic meant to cure not infect. .
- ◇ **Safe one handed way to lock gates...and you won't lose the clip!**



- ◇ Calf Nesting Score: Feet and lower legs should be covered with straw/bedding to provide adequate insulation. Avoid frostbite.



Rescheduled the February 6th parlor manager meeting for a future date.

New at clinic: Your bills have a new look. We changed software systems for more efficiency. If you notice problems please let the office know.



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