



# Dairy Details

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Editor: Jim Bennett DVM

NORTHERN VALLEY DAIRY PRODUCTION MEDICINE CENTER

## Welcome Dr. Seckerson

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Portia Seckerson will be joining our practice effective March 16. Dr. Seckerson grew up on a dairy farm near Rochester, MN. She received her undergraduate degree from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, WI where she played soccer and graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014. She has practiced in Chatfield, MN since then. She and her husband, Zach have two children, Everett (4) and Veda (2). Her interests are horseback riding, running, and gardening.

We are excited to have Dr. Seckerson on our team! We believe her experience, knowledge and perspective will help you reach your goals and succeed. We will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" luncheon in our Plainview office on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from noon until 2 pm. Please join us for lunch and welcome Dr. Seckerson.

## New Route Truck

Tired of opening boxes, checking packing slips, unpacking, and shelving products? If so, we have a deal for you. MWI and Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center now have a truck that will deliver products to your farm every Tuesday. The driver, Holly, will be coming to your farm, introducing herself and putting your products where you want them. She will unpack boxes and put them on the shelves, in the fridge, or where ever you would like them. There is no charge for this service. Orders should still be placed through the MWI website or Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center as you are currently doing. Orders placed on Monday, before 2pm will automatically be shipped on the route truck. Orders placed at any other time will be shipped via Speedee and UPS as done currently. Thus if you want Holly to unpack and shelve most of your products, order them on Mondays and use the other days of the week for things that you might of missed or pop up during the week. Hopefully with this new truck and Holly's help, your farm supplies will always be at hand!

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## Calves Get Coronavirus. Is it the same as human coronavirus?

The short answer is no. However, there are a lot of unknowns regarding coronaviruses and the recent COVID-19 outbreak has brought up a lot of questions. It is true that coronaviruses have been known to jump from animals to humans. The most recent examples are SARS (bats to palm civets to humans), MERS (bats to camels to humans) and likely COVID-19. Bovine coronavirus is very similar to one of the four common human coronaviruses, called OC43, but not as similar to COVID-19. Most human coronaviruses, including OC43, cause mild respiratory symptoms; indeed they are recognized as the primary cause of one fifth to one third of human colds. So if one really was concerned about catching a coronavirus from cattle, the most likely concern would be a cold, not COVID-19. Bovine coronavirus isolates all belong to a single serotype, and while there is some genetic diversity, there appears to be good cross protection between viral variants. This is why bovine coronavirus vaccines can be effective in different animals on different farms across the world. This is not necessarily the case with human coronaviruses, and is part of the reason human vaccines are not yet available.

Coronaviruses also infect all sorts of species, including, dogs, cats, and mice. Bovine coronavirus has been found in other ruminants, including deer elk, alpacas, giraffe, water buffalo, bison and more. Bovine coronavirus is ubiquitous in the bovine population around the world.

Historically bovine coronavirus has been considered primarily an enteric pathogen, causing diarrhea in young calves and winter dysentery in adults. Both of the commercially available vaccines, Calf Guard and Bovilus, are targeted to and labeled for enteric disease. However, bovine coronavirus has more recently been reported to be associated with respiratory disease, most commonly in 2-6 month old calves. It has also been associated with respiratory disease and reduced growth in feedlot cattle. Bovilus, the intranasal vaccine is being used to try to prevent respiratory disease in cattle, despite no label claim. Human coronaviruses, on the other hand, cause respiratory disease, and while they can be isolated from the gut of infants and children with diarrhea, little is known about their ability to cause enteric disease. A variety of respiratory, enteric, neurological, and wasting syndromes are caused by coronaviruses in other species.

The fact that human OC43 is so similar to bovine coronavirus begs the question if the two originally came from a common source. This seems likely, though they are now two separate, distinct viruses. It is pretty clear also that COVID-19 did not come from cattle. However, recent events demonstrate how viruses can modify themselves and move between species, and how closely related different mammalian species are. We are all more interrelated than most people realize.

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