

Dairy Details

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Editors:

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NORTHERN VALLEY DAIRY PRODUCTION MEDICINE CENTER

Young and Stupid

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Hello and happy mud season. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the farms and families as we work together. Thank you to the farms that have joined Northern Valley recently, it has helped ease the transition for me. The entire Northern Valley Team is so thankful for all your hard work and determination during this unusual time. Farmers are a prime example of the ability to persevere and band together to achieve what may seem impossible. As you continue to provide for this nation, we wish you health and safety as the upcoming planting season nears.

I was lucky enough to grow up on a dairy farm in northeast Rochester. As a child my family used Northern Valley Animal Clinic and Dr. Kevin Nigon did all of our herd work. One of my first and most vivid memories of Dr. Nigon was my mom sending me down to the barn when I was in Kindergarten to have Kevin look at a lump on my eyelid. After a quick exam (him squeezing the lump) he recommended I go see a real "human doctor". I have many more stories of Kevin but did not know much about the history of the practice until beginning to work here.

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Kevin Nigon and Jim Bennett both graduated veterinary school in 1981. Kevin wanted to be near home and Jim was as he puts it "young and stupid". The two started a practice from Dr. Leary and Dr. Wescott's clients and called it "Bennett and Nigon". Fresh out of veterinary school they started driving around together in Kevin's old green truck (my vote is to bring the trucks back). They both tell the same story of their first veterinary memory. The two of them had diagnosed an RDA on a cow and opened her up. To their surprise there was no DA, however the cow did recover uneventfully. The farmer has joked for years that they were ping-pong a stall divider.

The original office was north of Rochester. Not long after they opened an additional location in Elgin. At one point they had three practices and seven doctors servicing the needs of food animal, equine and small animal clients. Currently there is a small animal clinic in Rochester which is where the name Northern Valley originated (topography). In 1999, they opened the branch in Plainview to focus on large animal ruminants. The goal was and still is that the cattle clients always got a cow vet, even after hours.

From the beginning Kevin and Jim have always tried to sharpen their skills with continuing education

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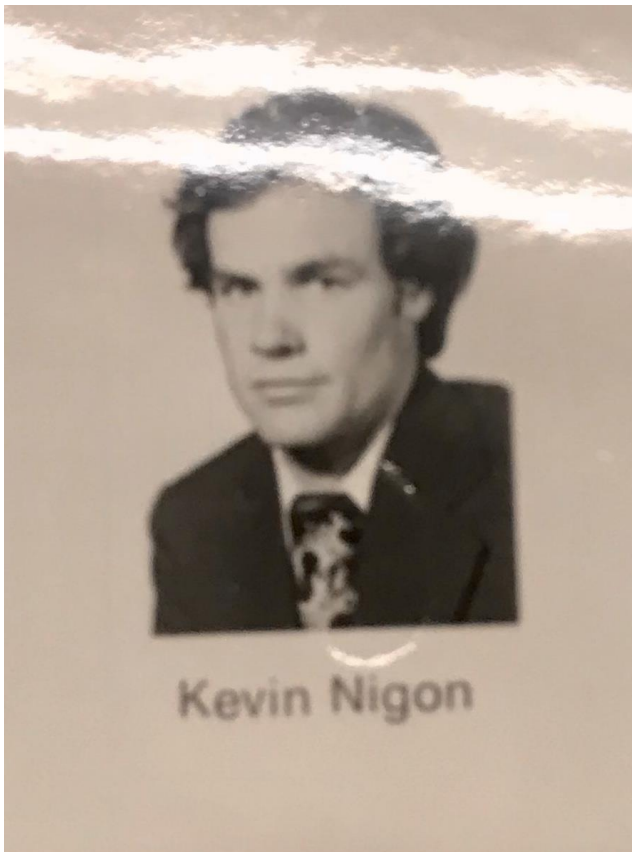
and are still big believers in this as they both fight CRS disease. There are some loyal clients that have endured this journey from the very beginning that deserve a shout, Schumacher , Don Borgschatz/Ed Zabel, Sheehans, and Blue Horizon Dairy (although they needed a brief break from Kevin). I look forward to continuing on this journey with Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center and to hearing more stories and making memories as we work through these changing times.

“We gotta play ‘em one day at a time. I’m just happy to be here. Hope I can help the ballclub. I just want to give it my best shot, and the good Lord willing, things will work out.”

-“Crash” Davis

Item’s on back order

- 12CC SYRINGES
- ALCOHOL
- ALL GLOVES
- BLOOD DRAW NEEDLES
- C&D ANTITOXIN
- CHLORHEX Q SCRUB
- EXPRESS FP 10
- GEL CAPS
- NOLVASON SCRUB
- NOVA MAX PLUS KETONE TEST STRIPS
- PENICILLIN
- PIRSUE
- SWABS
- TRIANGLE 4, 5, & 10
- VETRIMYCIN 200
- MOST ALL DISINFECTANTS (not Chlorine Dioxide)



University of Minnesota Veterinary Class of 1981 class photo

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