



The Importance of Milk Culturing

Milk culturing is often seen as a fall-back to use after a mastitis problem has occurred or is occurring. Although this is a good place to implement milk culturing, it is also equally as important to use as a preventative measure and to monitor alongside somatic cell counts. With milk prices continuing to trend low, it is of utmost importance to keep milk quality premiums to help your bottom line.

Bulk Tank Milk Cultures (BTMC) are often overlooked as they provide so much information based off one sample - sometimes too much information. BTMC are best implemented as a monitoring system once a month, bi-weekly, or once a week. The more BTMC we are allowed to evaluate, the better we can see trends and monitor current problems versus new problems arising. It allows us to see what pathogens are present in the herd, if there is primarily environmental or contagious, and if management factors are changing the milk quality dynamics. BTMC should be taken from the top of tank after it has been agitated. Asking your milk hauler to pull an extra sample is an easy way to accomplish this cleanly. BTMC are generally sent out to the WVDL to better find and interpret pathogen load.

Quarter Milk Sample Cultures (QMSC) are utilized when specific cows are having mastitis or high somatic cell count incidents. It is common to take a sample from each quarter into one milk test tube, however this decreases the overall sensitivity due to dilution factors. We highly recommend only taking samples from the quarter affected and if there are multiple quarters affected, placing the milk samples in separate milk tubes. These samples are best taken after milking is completed. This helps ensure there are no contaminants in the sample and it is true to what pathogen is growing in the udder, instead of what is in the teat end/canal. Additionally, only 2-5 mL are required for a sample.

When submitting milk samples for culturing, please be mindful of the time it takes to receive results. BTMC being sent out to separate labs can often take 1-2 weeks for results. QMSC being completed in house will be read 24 hours and 48 hours after plating. Because of this time constraint, samples will not be plated Friday through Sunday. It is recommended to immediately freeze all samples after they are taken and drop them off at the clinic still frozen.

We look forward to working with you and your herd to keep your milk quality at the gold standard!



Come celebrate 75 years
with us at our Open
House!

Saturday October 10:

Brodhead location

Noon til 4 pm

Kids Activities

Petting Zoo

Meet the Team

Educational Displays

Clinic Tours

Raffles/Prizes

Carriage Rides

Food by:

Grilling N' Chilling Shack
& Ice Cream Treats

Sunday October 11:

Monroe location

11am to 3 pm

Kids Activities

Bounce House

Meet the Team

Educational Displays

Clinic Tours

Raffles/Prizes

Food by:

Garden Deli
& Ice Cream Treats



DON'T FORGET YOU CAN ORDER YOUR MEDICATION ONLINE

VISIT: BRODHEADVET.MYVETSTOREONLINE.PHARMACY/





Dr. Savanna Crews
Associate Veterinarian

Team member since: 2025

Education:

B.S. Animal Science UW-Platteville 2021

D.V.M. Iowa State University 2025

Dr. Savanah Crews joined Brodhead Veterinary Medical Center in 2025. Being from Roscoe, Illinois, she is happy to be back in the area and close to family and friends. Although she did not grow up on a farm, her undergraduate experiences sparked a strong interest in agriculture that continues to shape her career. Dr. Crews' main areas of interest include surgery and calf health, but she is open to seeing any large animal species that comes through the door. She enjoys the challenges of veterinary medicine, especially the opportunity to learn, grow, and work closely with clients to support their animals.

Dr. Crews earned her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a minor in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2021, followed by her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State University in 2025.

In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and spending time outdoors with her family. She shares her home with her dogs, Dipper and Zeke, her cat, Weebz, her partner, David, and soon, her bundle of joy, arriving in November.



Dr. Alyssa McGowan
Associate Veterinarian

Team member since: 2025

Education:

B.S. Meat & Dairy Science UW-River Falls 2021

D.V.M. University of Minnesota 2025

Dr. Alyssa McGowan (Gathje) joined Brodhead Veterinary Medical Center in 2025 and enjoys working alongside a collaborative team that values communication and patient care. Dr. McGowan is originally from Minnesota, where she grew up with a variety of large animals, including sheep, pigs, and chickens. Her favorite part of veterinary medicine is partnering with clients to find creative and effective solutions for their animals. Her primary areas of interest include surgery, reproduction and small ruminant reproduction, where she enjoys both the challenge and the impact she can make.

Dr. McGowan earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, studying Meat Animal Science and Dairy Science, and went on to receive her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Outside of the clinic, Dr. McGowan enjoys baking, gardening, embroidery, and kayaking. She shares her home with her husband, Dylan, and their Lab/Hound mix, Sadie along with some chickens.