

Revamped Royalty, Rehydration and Other Revelations from Ohio's Holy Land

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Maria Stein is in the center of West Central Ohio's German Catholic settlement and concentrated dairy area. The area is sometimes called "The Holy Land" because the flat terrain gives rise to silos and church steeples. From our clinic you can see five steeples and there are two places in the practice where you can see eight. The sign on this slide may be difficult to read. It says "Positively No Trespassing Violators will be Round Baled." Working with German and French dairymen that take this no nonsense approach to problem solving and being surrounded by this much holiness, one is sometimes inspired to solve problems in a creative, cost effective manner.

Finding your boots in this pile is one thing that I perceived as a problem. Two boot racks for three pairs each were easily constructed from 18 inch lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dowel, some glue, and some scrap lengths of 4 by 6. The boots are organized and we've done a better job of cleaning the bottoms since we see them. The insides dry out better, so we use less baby powder to slip them on.

I develop a tremendous thirst when working through calls. Stopping at pop machines is not a healthy or effective way to rehydrate. We distill our own water in the clinic, then freeze it in two liter pop bottles. The melting ice gives you a refreshing thirst quencher that lasts the whole day.

Keeping doctors healthy is an important part of getting the work done. Previously, we cut umbilical hernias on the floor or we manually lifted them onto a table. Either way, our backs reminded us what we had done. We now use a chain fall to lift calves onto the table and the smallest doctor can complete the procedure without assistance.

If you can't catch heifers easily, you won't catch them. If you don't catch them, you can't manage them. If you don't manage heifers, you shouldn't raise them. A

portable heifer headlock was built to facilitate AI synchronization, vaccinations, worming, and heifer monitoring. The 21 headlocks are built on a low profile running gear like those used for combine header carriers.

Your practice vehicle is one of the things that clients use to evaluate the quality and scope of your practice abilities. Many of us need to carry an increasing load as we offer traditional medicine, dispensing, and production medicine services. Salesmen tell me that new full sized units can hold 15% more than the older units. The units are the same size. For a \$6000 savings, I spent a day capturing that space in a 15 year old Royal 8.

One area that is never big enough is the refrigerator. A Norcold V-2000 AC/DC refrigerator has twice the capacity of the standard unit and is only 4 inches longer. It fits in the same space with some remodeling. The Address is: Norcold; 1501 Michigan St.; PO Box 180; Sidney, OH 45365; 1-800-543-1219. A larger shelf on this side of the truck makes it the dispensing side of the truck. Information is one of the things most commonly dispensed. A cardboard box holds files for the production medicine visits that day, treatment sheets, information handouts, and data gathering forms.

There is a handy place for a drawer for hormones over the vertical drawers. We still infuse a few cows, so I added a place to carry rods and reorganized the bovine equipment drawer. There's room for a recyclable container by the water mixer controls if you move the mixer and pump above and below each other. While I was working in this area, I added a longer water hose.

The space behind the seat can be used efficiently. These organizers cost \$12 at WalMart. This one is for milking evaluation equipment. I have another one for feed sampling tools. I hope one of these hints will make your practice more pleasant.