

Topic of the Month

Abortions

Occasionally, we take a call from a farmer whose cow just aborted a pregnancy. Here's a few things to keep in mind.

1. While nobody likes to have a cow abort, there is a normal abortion rate in every herd. Sporadic abortions of less than 2% of the herd in a year are probably normal. If they occur in bunches or are 3% or more in a year, diagnostic work up is indicated.
2. If you feel that you have a higher than normal incidence of abortions in your herd, here's a few things that might help you make a diagnosis. First and foremost is the fetus itself. We can submit samples to the diagnostic lab to rule out infectious causes of abortion. We need it fresh, chilled and NEVER frozen. It would be helpful to clean some as much of the manure from the fetus as possible and ASAP after the fetus is found.
3. Placenta (afterbirth) from the cow is always helpful in diagnosing abortion caused by placentitis, or inflammation of the placenta.
4. A blood sample from the aborting cow should also be submitted to look for evidence of infectious disease exposure. These results should be interpreted with caution unless accompanied by the result of the fetal necropsy (autopsy.)
5. A good history of abortion totals and stage of gestation of the cows aborting.

There are many causes of infectious abortion in cattle and can usually be diagnosed by submitting the samples outlined above. Recognize, however, that only about 25-30% of abortions are infectious and with most of the others, a diagnosis cannot be made.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Mar) as of Dec 31	\$6.98
Soybeans(Jan) as of Dec 31	\$14.18
Soybean meal(Dec) as of Dec 31	\$420.60
Cheese Dec 31	\$1.79
Class III(Dec) as of Dec 31	\$18.60
Class III(Jan) as of Dec 31	\$17.91
Class III(Feb) as of Dec 31	\$18.32

Upcoming Events

Pennsylvania Farm Show Harrisburg, PA
January 3-12, 2013

Open beef cattle show-January 4

Junior market goat show-January 5

Junior market lamb and Junior market steer shows-January 6

Junior market swine show-January 7

Dairy cattle show January 11

In The News

USDA Issues Final Rule for Animal Disease Traceability *from USDA.gov*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a final rule establishing general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate.

Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates.

For more specific details about the regulation and how it will affect producers, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability.

Animal disease traceability, or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when, is very important to ensure a rapid response when animal disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.

Practice News

From January 7-25 White Oak Veterinary Clinic will again have an extern, Michelle Hall, a senior from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine with us for three weeks as part of her training.

Russell Webreck and Jenny Coleman have taken over the role of providing veterinary technician delivered services for White Oak Veterinary Clinic. If you wish to have routine dehorning, ear notching, blood collection, or vaccinating done, please call the office for details and to schedule.