

Topic of the Month

Winter and Calves

Winter seems to be a time when calves frequently require extra attention. The cold adds a complicating factor to common calf-hood diseases. This would be a good time to review a few principles regarding treatment of calves.

As usual, ventilation and nutrition are key. Extra feedings or feeding increased volumes can be helpful, but must be done carefully. Increasing the amount of milk replacer powder in the same volume of water can result in the concentration of solids being too high. This can cause a stomach upset or diarrhea. Adding electrolytes directly to milk will have the same effect and may make diarrhea worse.

Treating scouring calves also needs to address fluid losses. It may not be enough to just give two quarts of electrolyte solution because that's how the packets are sold. A calf needs to replace the fluids it loses in the scours plus what it loses through the steam in its breath, its urine, as well as its normal maintenance requirement of fluids. This can be very intensive and may require several treatments throughout the day. These calves may also have acid base imbalances that require treatment with sodium bicarbonate.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Mar) as of Dec 31	\$4.22
Soybeans(Jan) as of Dec 31	\$13.12
Soybean meal(Jan) as of Dec 31	\$437.70
Cheese Dec 31	\$1.88
Class III(Dec) as of Dec 31	\$18.09
Class III(Jan) as of Dec 31	\$19.34
Class III(Feb) as of Dec 31	\$18.67

Practice News

- We will be holding a producer meeting on February 6 at the Berlin community building in conjunction with Renaissance Nutrition and Zoetis Animal Health. Lunch will be provided. Speakers will be Dr. Tom Bass (Feeding for Reproduction) of Renaissance Nutrition and Dr. Croushore (Simple explanation of the Why's and How's of timed AI.) Save the date. We hope to see you there.

In The News

From: *Dairyherd.com*, Robert C. Gooding, Jr., PSU Extension

Approximately half of U.S. and one-third of Pennsylvania Ag businesses use technology to assist in business management. If you have not yet made the switch to computerized financial records, Penn State Extension provides a comparison of features in the major software packages.

Americans are connected with technology now more than ever. Research from the Pew Internet & American Life Project in May 2013 reported that 85% of American adults use the internet at least occasionally. The same group reported in April 2012 that 55% of American adults access the internet from their mobile devices. With all this technology adoption among the general population, businesses have turned to using technology to not only communicate with their consumers, but more importantly engage technology to assist in the financial management of their business. Two business sectors, agricultural and small businesses, have been slow to achieve the same rate of adoption. The benefits of incorporating technology into the financial management of the business outweigh the tribulations they may present.

Upcoming Events

2014 Producer meeting, Berlin
Community Building, February 6, 2014,
10AM-2PM

2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show,
Harrisburg, PA January 4-11, 2014