

Topic of the Month

Dry Matter

Corn silage harvest is well underway. One of the challenges of harvesting good corn silage is taking it when the moisture content is just right. Take it too wet and the good stuff leaches out in the juice. Take it too dry and it doesn't pack.

Once the corn is off and the packing is done, knowing the moisture content is critical if you are to feed the proper amount of dry matter. It is a good practice to sample silage for dry matter content periodically. We regularly see dry matter vary at different positions in the silo. Since rations are balanced on a dry matter basis, if the moisture content changes, the ration can become out of balance.

We are now able to offer dry matter analysis on fresh and ensiled forages. We can run the samples at the office on a Koster moisture tester and results are available same day. If you are in a pinch and your nutritionist isn't able to test right away, call us to make arrangements for testing.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Corn (Dec) as of Sep 30 | \$4.41 |
| Soybeans (Nov) as of Sep 30 | \$12.83 |
| Soybean meal (Oct) as of Sep 30 | \$409.40 |
| Class III milk (Sep) as of Sep 30 | \$18.12 |
| Class III milk (Oct) as of Sep 30 | \$18.00 |
| Class III milk (Nov) as of Sep 30 | \$17.90 |
| Cheese (Sep 30, 2013) | \$1.79 |

Practice News

- Congratulations to Ashley Stoltzfus on winning the 2013 Youth Showmanship contest at the All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg. She beat out 476 other competitors in this national event.

In The News

USDA to launch new dairy study in 2014

From: Dairyherd.com

In January 2014, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will launch its sixth national dairy study. NAHMS Dairy 2014 study will take an in-depth look at U.S. dairy operations, and provide the industry with new and valuable information regarding trends in the U.S. dairy industry from 1991 to 2014.

To collect the data for the study, representatives from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit selected dairy producers in 18 states, beginning in January 2014. NASS representatives will conduct personal interviews with all participating operations with 30 or more cows.

Participating operations with fewer than 30 cows will be asked to complete a brief mail-in questionnaire.

As with previous NAHMS dairy studies, NAHMS Dairy 2014 will be national in scope, collaborative in nature, and voluntary. Data collected during the study will be strictly confidential and used to generate scientifically based and statistically valid national estimates, which will be used for education, research, and policy.

Upcoming Events

October 1-5 World Dairy Expo,
Madison, Wisconsin