

## Topic of the Month

### Autumn Concerns

As the leaves change, this time of year can provide some spectacular scenery, especially with picturesque views of cattle out on pasture. But there are also a few things on that pasture that can really cause trouble for cows.

After a wet and mild summer, such as the one we had this year, parasites can accumulate in a pasture. Cows may have a heavy load of intestinal worms which limit production and growth and are potentially life-threatening to young stock. This type of weather also favors infection with lungworms. This infection often presents as cattle that have “pneumonia” without a fever that does not respond to antibiotics. Any cattle coming in from pasture should be dewormed either when they come in or after the first hard frost.

Another common problem is toxic plants. Earlier this summer, storms knocked down tree limbs, and there were several calls about cattle that ate cherry leaves which become toxic only after they wilt. A common toxin this time of year is acorns. Cattle develop a taste for them and will begin to eat them. Over time, a chemical in the acorns causes the cattle to go into kidney failure, which is not reversible. This is often difficult to prove because even when a post-mortem exam is performed, the acorns have already passed out of the cow’s rumen, leaving no evidence to find.

So as we move into autumn, keep these things in mind. This is also an excellent time of year to review your herd vaccination program with your herd veterinarian in preparation for winter.

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Dec) as of Sep 30	\$3.20
Soybeans(Nov) as of Sep 30	\$9.13
Soybean meal(Oct) as of Sep 30	\$304.60
Cheese (Sep) as of Sep 30	\$2.34
Class III(Sep) as of Sep 30	\$24.58
Class III(Oct) as of Sep 30	\$24.06
Class III(Nov) as of Sep 30	\$20.98

## Practice News

Dr. Croushore will be attending the American Embryo Transfer Association Convention in Middleton WI October 6-8, 2014

## In The News

### September milk prices jump

*From Dairyherd.com*

USDA’s preliminary estimate of the September 2014 U.S. average all-milk price, at \$25.00/cwt., was up 90¢ from August’s revised estimate, and the highest since April.

Year-to-date, the 2014 average all-milk price stands at \$24.30/cwt., up \$4.74 from the same period in 2013.

Southeast dairy farmers continued to see the highest prices among major dairy states, at \$29.70/cwt. in Florida and \$28.300/cwt. in Virginia. Seventeen of the 23 major dairy states saw average milk prices at \$25.00/cwt. or higher, with 10 above \$26.00/cwt., according to the USDA/NASS Ag Prices report.

Among the largest milk-producing states, Wisconsin’s September all-milk price averaged \$26.30/cwt., up \$1.90 from August. California, at \$23.00/cwt., up 80¢; New York, at \$26.40/cwt., and Pennsylvania, at \$26.80/cwt., were each up 50¢. Idaho, at \$24.00/cwt., was up 80¢. New Mexico, at \$22.50/cwt., was up 60¢.

### Cull cow prices average \$1.19/lb.

Estimated U.S. September 2014 cull cow prices (beef and dairy combined) averaged \$119.00/cwt., according to the USDA/NASS Ag Prices report. The average is down \$2.00/cwt. from August, but \$35.10/cwt. more than September 2013. Year-to-date, the cull cow price has averaged \$105.97/cwt., up \$23.50 from January-September 2013.

## Upcoming Events

### Farm Bill Margin Protection Program Sessions.

**10/22/2014 Somerset** from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. at Somerset Extension Office, 6024 Glades Pike, Somerset, PA

Producers who have questions about the new Farm Bill and the Dairy Margin Protection Program can choose from 35 meetings happening across the state to provide more information on using the tool. The meetings are being hosted by the Penn State Extension Dairy Team and the Center for Dairy Excellence. They will address what you need to enroll in MPP and what it means for your dairy. To register, call 1-888-373-7232 or contact your local Penn State Extension Office.