

## Topic of the Month

### Milk Fever

Relatively recent research points to marginal or low blood calcium levels as an underlying cause of many fresh cow diseases. Milk fever is easy enough to treat, but what about the fresh cow that never goes down, but just doesn't seem right?

Studies indicate that these cows may also benefit from calcium treatment under certain conditions. Fresh cows that are standing do not need IV calcium, and treating them this way will actually signal their brain to pull calcium out of their bloodstream and the end result will be a lower blood calcium than you started with. The way to treat these cows is using oral calcium. When done appropriately, this will allow the cow to take the calcium she needs without overdoing it. A proper dose would be a calcium bolus at freshening and then 12-24 hours later. Supplementing more than this was found to have negative effects on the cow's health.

Of course, it may not be cost effective to supplement every cow. The cows that benefit the most are older cows, lame cows, and cows that milked greater than 105% of the herd average production during the prior lactation. A slight adjustment to the way you handle fresh cows could pay off when it comes to treatment time and costs and vet visits.

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Dec) as of Oct 31	\$3.77
Soybeans(Dec) as of Oct 31	\$10.46
Soybean meal(Dec) as of Oct 31	\$389.00
Cheese (Oct) as of Oct 31	\$2.29
Class III(Oct) as of Oct 31	\$23.79
Class III(Nov) as of Oct 31	\$21.15
Class III(Dec) as of Oct 31	\$18.99

## Practice News

- We are in the process of assembling a group of donors to be aspirated for IVF in December. If you are interested, contact Dr. Croushore ASAP to start the process of setting up the donor

## In The News

### Milk-feed price ratio highest in seven years

From *Dairyherd.com*

Strong milk prices combined with lower feed costs, improving USDA's index of the relationship between the value of milk and dairy feed – the milk-feed price ratio – to the highest level since October 2007.

The preliminary October 2014 milk-feed price ratio was estimated at 3.07, up from September's revised estimate of 2.97, and well above the 2.10 ratio in October 2013.

The index is based on the current milk price in relationship to feed prices for a ration of 51% corn, 8% soybeans and 41% alfalfa hay.

The October 2014 U.S. average all-milk price was \$25.30/cwt., compared to \$25.70/cwt. in September 2014 and \$20.90/cwt. in October 2013.

October corn, at \$3.28/bushel, was down 20¢ from September and \$1.35 less than October 2013.

October 2014 soybeans averaged \$9.64/bushel, down \$1.26 from September and \$2.86 less than October 2013.

Alfalfa hay averaged \$194/ton in October, down \$3 from September 2014, but still \$1 more than October 2013.

## Upcoming Events

November 28: Deadline for enrolling in New Dairy Farm Risk Management Program

Wednesday, November 12, at 12 p.m., Thursday, November 13, at 12 p.m., Wednesday, November 19, at 12 p.m., Thursday, November 20, at 12 p.m. Webinars with Center for Dairy Excellence's Risk Management Program Manager Alan Zepp who will have webinars about the risk program, to register for webinars or for information call 717-346-0849 to register and receive the webinar and conference call information.