

Topic of the Month

Ventilation

Whoever coined the expression about being born in a barn to chide a person for leaving a door open has obviously never visited Somerset County in winter. If they had, they would have found barns with doors and windows shut up tight to keep the wind and cold out.

And while it is true that the difference between good ventilation and a draft is often the temperature, it is also true that the next few months are one of the most common times of year for treating pneumonia. Closing up those barns makes it warmer, but also stuffy. They are full of cobwebs and smell like ammonia. And stale air sets cattle up for pneumonia.

This can be especially problematic for calves. So as the temperature drops, focus on proper feeding, proper bedding, and get those windows and doors open! The cattle will appreciate the fresh air. And the next time someone asks if you were born in a barn, you can brag about how healthy your well-ventilated cattle are.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Dec) as of Nov 29	\$4.15
Soybeans(Jan) as of Nov 29	\$13.36
Soybean meal(Dec) as of Nov 29	\$456.6
Cheese (Nov) as of Nov 29	\$1.86
Class III(Nov) as of Nov 29	\$18.80
Class III(Dec) as of Nov 29	\$18.47
Class III(Jan) as of Nov 29	\$17.72

Practice News

- Dairy replacement costs are at an all-time high and are a substantial bottleneck on many dairies. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive replacement heifer development evaluation to streamline replacement costs. You will hear more about this from one of us in the near future, but if you are interested in an evaluation immediately, let one of us know.

In The News

Calif. dairy steals the show on 'Undercover Boss'

From: Dairyherd.com

Amit Kleinberger, CEO of Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, had an up-close and personal encounter on a recent episode of "Undercover Boss."

A disguised Kleinberger was sent to Scott Brothers Dairy, a 1,000-head dairy in Moreno Valley, Calif. The dairy provides milk used in Menchie's frozen yogurt products.

Co-owner Brad Scott used the opportunity to promote not only his operation, but the entire dairy industry. His segment, though short, was a public showcase of what dairy farmers do to feed the country and world.

Kleinberger shadowed Francisco, one of the dairy's herdsmen, and experienced many aspects of dairy farming, including delivering a calf.

"I'm pretty inspired by now," Kleinberger said as his day on the dairy came to a close. "The world needs more Franciscos. I can't be more proud to know that the milk we use comes from the hands of Francisco."

Kleinberger later sent Francisco and his family on a paid cruise vacation and a \$30,000 cash gift for giving Kleinberger what he called the "highlight" of his week.

Upcoming Events

We will be closed on Christmas day and New Year's Day. We will be available for emergencies only. We hope everybody has a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.