

Topic of the Month

Cold weather Teat Dipping

As the coldest part of winter approaches, a common question every year is whether or not I should stop teat dipping in the winter. The answer is no, but it is a little more complex than that. In the absence of dipping, contagious bacteria, such as Staph aureus can thrive. They are passed from the warm udder, through the milking equipment, into the next udder. So it is very important to continue dipping to kill these organisms.

Cold weather teat dipping should be done using a dip with skin conditioners, however, high levels of conditioners can lower the bacterial killing power of a dip. Ointments and salves may also provide material for bacteria to grow in. Especially where Staph aureus is a concern, iodine based teat dips are good for bacterial killing, however, the iodine can irritate teats that are already chapped.

Finally, it is so important to allow the dip to dry and wipe off any excess drops before the cows leave the parlor, especially if they have to walk out into the cold and wind.

Commodity Futures

Corn(Mar) as of Jan 31	\$7.40
Soybeans(Mar) as of Jan 31	\$14.68
Soybean meal(Mar) as of Jan31	\$426.40
Cheese (Feb) as of Jan 32	\$1.67
Class III(Feb) as of Jan 31	\$17.20
Class III(Mar) as of Jan 31	\$16.98
Class III(Apr) as of Jan 31	\$17.10

Source: CME

Upcoming Events

PA Junior Holstein Convention February 1-3 .Hilton Garden Inn & Ambassador Center, Erie PA

PA Holstein Convention February 28 – March 2 Pittsburgh Marriott North, Cranberry Twp. PA

In The News

Dairy cow slaughter highest in 26 years

From: Dairy Herd Network

It comes as no surprise: Dairy cull cow slaughter was up considerably in 2012.

In the wake of high feed cost and low profitability, 3.101 million dairy cows went to slaughter last year, according to the "Livestock Slaughter" report issued Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That was 187,000 more than went to slaughter in 2011.

According to reports, the 2012 total is the highest in 26 years. The last time it was higher was 1986, which was influenced by the federal whole herd buy-out program.

1986 was the first year that dairy cattle slaughter was reported separate from total cattle slaughter. In 1986, 3.595 million dairy cows went to slaughter.

2012 was almost 500,000 below 1986, but still high by historical standards

Practice News

- White Oak Veterinary Clinic and Purina Animal Nutrition will hold an informational producer meeting on February 28 at the Berlin Community Center. The topic will be calf health and nutrition. Lunch will be provided courtesy of White Oak Veterinary Clinic and Purina Animal Health. Look for an invitation in the mail soon.