

Topic of the Month

Rabies

On December 30 a client, called with a four month old Holstein steer that was, "just not acting right". The client's calf was indeed hyper. It bawled often, moved around the pen (often in one direction) almost continually, frequently got up and down, salivated often, did head pressing and was unable to swallow water, which it attempted to drink. We decided to euthanize the animal and send the brain in for testing.

Two days later, I received a call telling me that the calf tested positive for Rabies. As a result of this incident and the fact that the farmer and his grand-daughter had been exposed to the saliva of the animal, both had to undergo a painful series of 8 injections of antiserum over a three week period. .

Rabies is caused by a virus that usually is transferred by a bite or at least an exposure of that virus to an open wound. Rabies in cattle is fairly rare. In 2014 there were 2 recorded cases of rabies in cattle in Pennsylvania. This compares with 2 cases in dogs, 7 in groundhogs, 3 in white tailed deer, 19 in fox, 45 in skunks, 47 in cats, 62 in bats, and 210 in raccoons.

If you see animals with bizarre behavior, salivating, uncoordinated, aggressive, afraid of water, unable to swallow, or sometimes in the case of wildlife appearing "tame", you should avoid contact with those animals. Not all animals with these signs have rabies, but they should be approached with caution.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Mar) as of Jan 30	\$3.70
Soybeans(Mar) as of Jan 30	\$9.61
Soybean meal(Mar) as of Jan 30	\$329.90
Cheese (Jan) as of Jan 30	\$1.58
Class III(Jan) as of Jan 30	\$16.14
Class III(Feb) as of Jan 30	\$16.00
Class III(Mar) as of Jan 30	\$15.66

In The News

China: The Dragon in the Room

Dairy Today:

A price rebound hinges on whether China continues its buying spree. World dairy markets in 2014 were largely driven by the beat of Chinese drums. The more China bought, the more milk prices rose.

When that buying spree stopped this past summer, prices fell. Whether they'll rebound depends largely, though not solely, on China's returning to the market.

"China is the dragon in the room," says Marin Bozic, a dairy economist with the University of Minnesota.

"It front-loaded its dairy imports in the first half of 2014," he says, buying nearly 80% of its imports in the first five months of the year. USDA expects China to cut back its purchases of whole milk powder (WPM) as much as 12% in 2015 (from 680,000 metric tons to 600,000), due in part to a substantial build-up of stocks from its huge buying spree in 2014.

Some believe China could become self-sufficient in dairy production and even a dairy exporter by 2030. Over the past few years, it has imported 250,000 dairy cows from New Zealand, Australia and Uruguay.

Upcoming Events

Winter Dairy Meeting

February 26, 2015 Berlin Community Building 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Reserve your place by February 20 at White Oak Veterinary Clinic 814-267-4411

Speakers: Dan Zawisza VMD, White Oak Veterinary Clinic: "BVD - What Does It Mean to Your Farm?"

Elizabeth Santini DVM, Veterinary Medical Field Officer Region 5. PA Dept of Agriculture: "Animal Traceability" and "Drug Residue Prevention"