

## Topic of the Month

### Tips to Prevent Calf Scours

Over winter, calf scours is one of the most devastating diseases of young stock. The common causes occur so consistently that it is possible to predict the cause of a calf's scours based on its age. However, there are few treatments directed at specific pathogens, and most of the treatments are based on supportive care. Since the calves often go on to develop other problems such as pneumonia, dehydration and poor body condition, prevention is critical.

The single biggest factor in preventing calf scours is colostrum feeding. This is so critical because the antibodies help fight off E. coli, which is the earliest cause of calf scouring, as well as viral agents that cause diarrhea in slightly older calves, and can not be effectively treated with antibiotics.

Once the calves have a proper start with colostrum, adequate feeding is key. Calves that have additional calories for the cold are able to cope with immune challenges much better. And while buying more milk replacer may not be a welcome idea, it will be cheaper than buying antibiotics and losing calves.

## Commodity Futures

Corn(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$7.03
Soybeans(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$14.52
Soybean meal(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$435.40
Cheese (Mar) as of Feb 28	\$1.65
Class III(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$16.98
Class III(Apr) as of Feb 28	\$17.19
Class III(May) as of Feb 28	\$17.49

## Upcoming Events

**March 22 9:00a.m. PA Holstein Spring Show.** Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, PA

**The PA Cattlemen Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.** March 28, 2013 –thru March 30, 2013 State College, PA

## In The News

By: Sara Schafer, AgWeb.com Business and Crops Online Editor

**It may be time to bid farewell to \$6 and \$7 corn. USDA's estimates are showing support for much lower prices.**

An average corn price near \$4 is a great contrast to recent prices of \$6 and \$7. But, that's what seems to be in the cards.

During its annual Agricultural Outlook Forum this week, USDA released estimates showing a dramatic drop in corn and soybean prices.

Here are the agency's crop price predictions for 2013/14:

Corn: \$4.80 (-33.3% drop from 2012/13)

Soybeans: \$10.50 (-26.6% drop from 2012/13)

Wheat: \$7.00 (-11/4\$ drop from 2012/13)

### **Five challenges to overstocking of free stall barns**

Dairymen considering overstocking free stall barns should consider the following five challenges:

1. Cows will choose rest over eating.
2. Overstocking can cause the illusion of good stall comfort.
3. Bedding san stall maintenance matter.
4. Feeding behavior is affected.
5. Heifers and lame cows will suffer first.

<http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-herd/More-cows-do-not-necessarily-mean-more-milk-189072031.html?page=2#sthash.yWacRLGq.dpuf>