

Topic of the Month

Recent Meeting

At the beginning of February, we held our producer meeting in conjunction with several sponsors. The topic was timed artificial insemination and reproductive efficiency. Dr. Bill Croushore, of White Oak, and Dr. Tom Bass, of Renaissance Nutrition, discussed the importance of heat detection, proper feeding, compliance in giving injections, and timing in getting cows pregnant.

The meeting was well attended, but we realize that this has been a difficult winter and some producers may not have been able to make it because of cold weather related problems on the farm. Several of the most crucial points made include the fact that reproduction is one of the management areas where you can make the most improvement with very little capital input. Improving your pregnancy rate can also allow you to improve your herd, for example, by selling excess calves or breeding bottom end cows to beef. Finally, who can benefit from timed AI? If your heat detection rate is less than 65%, then you can. These protocols will not make up for nutritional deficits or transition issues, so a program should be implemented with input from your herd vet. And if you are tired of hearing about timed AI and wonder why we talk about it so much, the reason is that it is that important.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$4.57
Soybeans(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$14.14
Soybean meal(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$467.90
Cheese Feb 28	\$2.27
Class III(Feb) as of Feb 28	\$23.18
Class III(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$22.15
Class III(Apr) as of Feb 28	\$20.85

Practice News

- We are now offering comprehensive dairy heifer evaluation. Improve the health and profitability of your calves. Contact us today for more details.

In The News

Market outlook 2014

From: Cattlenetwork.com

Chad Spearman, CattleFax, outlined his forecast for the cattle and beef market in 2014 for attendees of the 2013 Range Beef Cow Symposium. Cheaper feed costs, a reduction in cattle supplies, and an increase in beef exports were the three key drivers Spearman identified that will support slaughter and feeder cattle prices near record highs for the next year.

Corn futures prices dropped from over \$7.00 a bushel during summer of 2013 to harvest lows around \$4.00 a bushel in November 2013. Spearman expects corn prices to range from \$3.50-\$5.50/ bushel over the next two years. For cattle feeders, that lowers feeding cost of gain from \$110-120/cwt to \$75-85/cwt. One of the reasons behind the lower corn price is the expectation of a record global corn crop this season. The global harvest of corn during the 2013-14 marketing year is expected to be near 966.6 million metric tons, up 12% from the previous year.

Upcoming Events

March 7: Somerset County Holstein Annual Banquet, Sipesville Fire Hall

March 24-27: PA Beef Expo, State College, PA