

## Topic of the Month

### Winter Feeding

This has been an especially cold winter. In extreme cold, cattle tend to burn calories to stay warm, especially those that winter outside with limited shelter. Here's something to consider.

Cattle will lose body condition in the winter months if fed a ration that hasn't been adjusted for energy. Spring calving beef cattle and late bred heifers are especially susceptible to this. To complicate matters, their thick winter fur often will hide the evidence of visible ribs and vertebrae.

If you have cattle that are wintering outside, this would be a good time to catch a few and feel over their ribs and topline to check their body condition. If in poor condition and left on the same ration, they could be at risk, literally, for starvation. Starved cows will go down, often while maintaining their appetite, and be unable to rise without any apparent injury. If they are in poor condition, be sure to supplement them with some grain. It could literally save a cow's life.

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Mar) as of Feb 27	\$3.84
Soybeans(Mar) as of Feb 27	\$10.31
Soybean meal(Mar) as of Feb 27 Jan 30	\$353.70
Cheese (Feb) as of Feb 27	\$1.54
Class III(Feb) as of Feb 27	\$15.49
Class III(Mar) as of Feb 27	\$15.69
Class III(Apr) as of Feb 27	\$15.87

## Practice News

- We want to thank everyone who attended the Producer meeting on March 26. Dr. Elizabeth Santini made some very valid points about the necessity of recordkeeping and also about proper use of flunixin (Banamine.) We will have more information about judicious drug use in the upcoming months.

## In The News

### USDEC forecasts likely impact of EU milk quota removal *from Dairyherd.com*

European Union (EU) milk production quotas end March 31.

The change will drive output of all dairy product categories to some degree, as EU farmers and processors seek to capitalize on emerging market demand—pursuing many of the same countries U.S. exporters are targeting.

A study from the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) examines the likely impact of quota removal by analyzing the six EU nations with the greatest post-quota growth potential: Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Poland. Through 2020, those six will account for the vast majority of EU dairy production growth and export expansion.

The USDEC analysis determined that, under the most likely scenario, the six would increase annual milk output by nearly 26 billion lbs. from 2013-2020. The study further concluded that although a bigger European export presence would create greater competitive challenges for U.S. suppliers, continued rising emerging market demand would absorb increased EU volumes and still leave ample opportunity for U.S. suppliers in nearly all sectors.

## Upcoming Events

- PA Holstein Spring Show, March 20, Harrisburg, PA