

Topic of the Month

Inducing Labor

It's been an unusual spring in more ways than one. By now, manure pits are usually getting empty, at least some ground has been tilled and beef calving season is in full swing.

It seems that spring isn't the only thing late this year. Many cows heavy with calf this year are late to go into labor. This produces a dilemma for the farmer. Do you induce labor and risk the potential side effects of the induction or let the cow go and risk a calf that is too big to deliver without assistance or even worse, a cesarean section.

Here are some things to consider. Induction is well known to increase the risk of retained placenta in the cow. That is a concern; however, retained placenta risk also increases when a cow needs assistance in the case of a large calf.

Every day the cow is overdue, plan on the birth weight of the calf to increase by a pound a day. That can take a 90 pound calf to 100 pounds in just 10 days. That may be the difference between a live calf and a dead one.

Induction can be achieved by giving the cow 10 to 20 cc of dexamethasone. Labor commences between 24 and 48 hours later. Lutalyse is often given at the same time to reduce the risk of retained placenta. It is reasonable to induce labor as soon as the cow is overdue, provided you have confidence in a correct breeding date.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(May) as of Mar 28	\$6.95
Soybeans(May) as of Mar 28	\$14.05
Soybean meal(May) as of Mar 28	\$404.60
Cheese (Mar) as of Mar 28	\$1.65
Class III(Mar) as of Mar 28	\$16.97
Class III(Apr) as of Mar 28	\$17.26
Class III(May) as of Mar 28	\$18.34

In The News

Groundhog lied, prosecutor recommends death penalty

from cattlenetwork.com

An Ohio prosecutor has filed a criminal "indictment" against Punxsutawney Phil, the Pennsylvania groundhog who emerges from his burrow each February 2 at Gobbler's Knob to predict whether spring will come early or late.

Michael T. Gmoser, prosecutor for Butler County, OH, says Punxsutawney Phil lied, and it's not the first time. Last Thursday was the first full day of spring, the same day the Northeast received a foot of snow. "Punxsutawney Phil did purposely, and with prior calculation and design, cause people to believe that Spring would come early," the indictment reads. Gmoser says he will recommend the death penalty.

"He's already serving a life sentence behind bars, as you know," Gosmer told WXIX.

Practice News

- July 1 of this year represents the 40th anniversary of White Oak Veterinary Clinic. On July 11 we will hold a customer appreciation day. More details to follow.
- Missing hip lift: One of our hip lifts has gone AWOL. If you know of its whereabouts please let us know. We attempt to keep hip lifts available for the use for clients with down cows. If you borrow one of these items, please return it promptly so that other clients can use it.