

Topic of the Month

Transition

The transition period is one of the most critical times for a dairy cow. Going from a relatively low stress dry period to calving and the demands of early lactation is difficult, particularly when there are other factors such as heat or cold stress, overcrowding, and feed changes.

Transition issues often show up as lower than normal peak milk yields, as well as fresh cow disease, and poor first service conception rates. It may be possible to identify transition problems by evaluating these parameters in your herd. By correcting them, you might be able to lower drug and surgery costs, lower days to first service, and increase milk production and this is important when margins are tight.

Sometimes the fixes are easier than you would think. Start a conversation with your herd vet at your next herd health visit and see what changes you might be able to make.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(May) as of Apr 30	\$6.83
Soybeans(May) as of Apr 30	\$14.68
Soybean meal(May) as of Apr 30	\$428.30
Cheese (May) as of Apr 30	\$1.84
Class III(Apr) as of Apr 30	\$17.60
Class III(May) as of Apr 30	\$18.67
Class III(June) as of Apr 30	\$19.54

Practice News

New Hours

- Beginning on May 13, 2013, the office will have new hours of operation. Weekday hours of operation will be 7:30 AM to 4 PM.
- Beginning July 6, 2013, the office will no longer be staffed on Saturdays, but we will continue to make routine farm calls on Saturdays.
- On Saturdays, medicines can be arranged to be picked up at the office in the afternoon by calling the office and leaving a message.

In The News

From: Dairyherd.com

The bureaucrats punted again.

For the seventh time in 16 years, the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) has turned down a request to upgrade the standard for somatic cell count.

The NCIMS, made up of state regulators who oversee milk-safety rules, last week turned down a request from the National Milk Producers Federation to lower the SCC legal limit from 750,000 cells/mL to 400,000, starting in 2015.

In previous years, similar proposals by the NMPF or the National Mastitis Council also were voted down. One possible explanation: The regulators who make up NCIMS are primarily responsible for milk safety and somatic cell count is not a milk-safety issue.

Because the NCIMS only meets every other year, it will be 2015 before the proposal can be debated again.