



Topic of the Month

Heat Stress

Yes, this is Somerset County where the two seasons are winter and the 4th of July. But cattle still can feel the effects of heat stress in the middle of summer. .

Decreased milk production and poor reproductive performance are the end result of heat stress, but cattle can suffer from heat stroke as well and the effects are much more severe.

Fresh cows are perhaps the most susceptible since hypocalcemia (milk fever) reduces a cow’s ability to sweat. We have seen body temperatures in excess of 110 F in some cows suffering from heat stroke. Once the body temperature reaches 109F, recovery is unlikely. Signs include staggering and labored breathing. The labored breathing is the cow’s attempt to cool off, similar to a dog panting.

Black cows in direct sunlight may be overcome by heat stroke even with temperatures in the low 80’s, so pay extra close attention to fresh cows when they are outside in the sun.

Treatment involves cooling the animal quickly to prevent multiple organ system failure. An extended dousing with cool water from a hose is helpful. If the humidity isn’t too high, the evaporation of the water from her skin will also help to cool her. And if the cow is suffering from milk fever. Obviously, calcium should be given.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(July) as of June 30	\$4.24
Soybeans(July) as of June 30	\$14.00
Soybean meal(May) as of June 30	\$458.30
Cheese June 30	\$2.06
Class III(Jun) as of June 30	\$21.34
Class III(July) as of June 30	\$21.25
Class III(Aug) as of June 30	\$21.18

Practice News

- We currently are not able to offer technician dehorning but the doctors can still dehorn calves during herd checks.
- We are selling an International 4700 truck that we used to haul water to float cows. It has an approximately 500 gallon water tank on it. Call us if you are interested for specifics and price.

In The News

Dairy markets: Butter is the driver

From: Dairyherd.com

They say a rising tide lifts all boats – and that seemed to be the case for Class III and cheese yesterday. Both followed Class IV products higher Monday, as what started as a “ho-hum” day found bullish footing. There are always weather concerns as chatter of El Nino ebbs and flows. But the reality is butter prices remain in a strong upward trend, and that is the main driver to the whole dairy complex right now. Spot cheese edged slightly higher, but that market seems content at – or very close to – the \$2.00/lb. level right now.

Yesterday’s USDA Cold Storage Report offered little in the way of bullish supporting argument to the current frenzy of price movements. If there is one common theme, it’s that the dairy markets as a whole have done a fairly good job of shrugging off bearish information (April milk cow and production revisions). Milk supply is not what people expected right now, and it appears buyers’ nerves are frayed, with lingering worry of getting caught short of anything dairy after having lived through Q1 of this year.

The butter market turned red hot again yesterday, trading limit up from July to October, as spot butter rallied 5¢ to \$2.2850/lb. – up a dime in the past week – as sell side interest vanished. Prices are firming here again overnight, and chatter seems to be directed at the \$2.40/lb. level. The prior high of \$2.30 has not been eclipsed, and so calling a top above that is a testament to personal courage. But the market remains tight for butterfat right now, and without a surge in milk supply, it seems the market will remain tight well into July.

Upcoming Events

- Dairy Shows: July 10 (junior show); July 11 (open show), Meyersdale Fairgrounds
- Fair animal veterinary inspections: Berlin, High School, July 23. Meyersdale, Fairgrounds, July 31.