

Topic of the Month

Replacement Management

Being able to calve a dairy replacement in at 22 months and having that animal produce more milk than 25 month old replacements of a year ago starts with day one of the calf's life. An analysis of one 700 cow herd demonstrated a feed savings of \$19,900 by managing and calving two months earlier and an increase in milk income of over \$20,000 for first lactations, if replacements are raised in better housing and surroundings. Colostrum management is of the essence. Calves should receive 4 quarts of clean, fresh, bacteria free colostrum within the first hour after birth. Colostrum absorption and subsequent immunity to disease drop off gradually to zero if the colostrum is given 24 hours after birth. Colostrum can be frozen so that there is always a supply available to feed a calf that is born of a mother with inadequate colostrum. Thawing should occur with the colostrum immersed in warm water. Excessive heat as in a microwave will destroy the immunoglobulins in the colostrum.

Colostrum management is only one piece of the pie. Other issues affecting optimum replacement include, calf comfort, nutrition, parasite control to name a few.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(July) as of June 30	\$4.14
Soybeans(July) as of June 30	\$10.56
Soybean meal(July) as of June 30	\$359.50
Cheese (June) as of June 30	\$1.72
Class III(June) as of June 30	\$16.71
Class III(July)as of June 30	\$16.11
Class III(Aug) as of June 30	\$16.50

Practice News

Calf Raising Assessment

White Oak Veterinary Clinic is now providing a comprehensive dairy calf raising assessment service. This assessment includes analysis of new-born calf management, sanitation issues, growth rates, and other issues age at first calving and first lactation production levels. To learn more about this program talk to your herd veterinarian at your next herd check or give us a call.

In The News

Weather Upends Market Fundamentals

(From Ag Web)

"I drove about 80 miles across north central Indiana yesterday...and saw about three good looking corn fields. Most fields are 10% underwater, 10% good, and 80% scrawny yellow plants. Another week of rain forecast. The guys who planted way early look like heroes - the taller corn can tolerate the water better.

Lots of beans will not get planted now."

Upcoming Events

- July 10. Somerset County Holstein Show, Meyersdale, PA
- August 18-20. Penn State's Ag Progress Days is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, 2710 West Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania