



## Topic of the Month

### Transition Cow Research Opportunity

We all see the problems related that occur when a farm has a transition cow meltdown--LDAs, ketosis, retained placentas, impaired reproduction and decreased milk production. Transition cow problems involve a number of issues, including cow comfort and housing, calcium balance, and energy balance to mention a few. One area of research relating to energy balance involves blood NEFA. Blood NEFA (non-esterified fatty acids) represent body fat mobilized from the cow's back, thighs, ribs, and abdomen. Research has shown that there is an optimal desirable level of NEFA. We want the cow to be able to use some fat for milk production, but if the breakdown is too rapid we may see clinical ketosis. NEFA is a term for a number of fatty acids and there is preliminary research that specific fatty acids may be more important than NEFA as a whole. West Virginia University has an ongoing research project on one of our client's herds in Somerset County aimed at quantifying the various fatty acids that make up NEFA, and making interventions to adjust the NEFA levels and the resulting cow performance. The next step in their project is to expand the project to a number of farms, doing blood tests on cows pre and post fresh to measure NEFA and individual fatty acids. We are asking that you consider being involved in this project. Volunteer herds will receive free testing of cows pre and post fresh. Sampling will be done by WVU staff. This information will be used to measure the level of NEFA in the population in general. In addition this information will be made available to you, your nutritionist, and your veterinarian, so that you may, if need be, formulate an intervention strategy to improve your herd. This project represents an opportunity to receive a substantial amount of free testing, and possibly keep you on the cutting edge relative to energy balance in transition cow management. You may be contacted by Dr Joe McFadden, his staff or by one of the three of us at White Oak. In addition Dr McFadden will have a booth at the Somerset County Fair, where you can stop in and learn more about this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

### Upcoming Events

- Somerset County Fair, August 16-23
- Somerset County Holstein Sale, Friday, September 5

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Sept) as of July 31	\$3.62
Soybeans(Aug) as of July 31	\$12.20
Soybean meal(Aug) as of July 31	\$387.60
Cheese July 31	\$2.04
Class III(July) as of July 31	\$21.60
Class III(Aug) as of July 31	\$21.38
Class III(Sept) as of July 31	\$21.30

## In The News

### Corn crop in best shape in 21 years

From: *Dairyherd.com*

As of July 20, 76 percent of the country's corn is in good or better condition, marking the best conditions seen since 1993. According to the USDA's latest Crop Progress report, just 5 percent of corn in the top 18 corn-producing states are rated in poor or very poor condition.

Missouri reported the best corn conditions in the country with 86 percent of the state's corn in good or excellent condition. Illinois and Pennsylvania also showed high percentages of corn in these conditions.

As seen last week, North Carolina is again reporting the worst corn conditions with 14 percent in poor or worse condition. According to the North Carolina department of Agriculture, many counties are reporting Southern Corn Rust which is becoming more of a concern.

Currently 56 percent of corn has silked, compared to the five-year average of 55 percent and last year's report of 39 percent.

#### Soybeans: Already setting pods

The USDA's report also showed 60 percent of soybeans blooming and 19 percent setting pods. Last year, just 7 percent of soybeans had set pods by this time of July.

Soybean conditions improved from last week's report. Currently 73 percent of soybeans in the country are in good or excellent condition, compared to 72 percent last week and 64 percent last year.

The best conditions were seen in Tennessee and Louisiana, where 79 percent of soybeans were rated in these conditions. Other states reporting high percentages of soybeans rated in good or better condition include Illinois (77 percent), Kentucky (77 percent), Missouri (78 percent), and North Dakota (78 percent).

Arkansas reported the worst soybeans in the county with 15 percent of the state's soybeans in poor or worse condition.

## Practice News

- Due to lack of use, we will be selling the float tank. We will let it go for scrap price since it needs some work. Please call if you are interested.