

Topic of the Month

Twins

We all know that twins are unwelcome in cattle. Twin pregnancies often result in severe complications for the cow and the stillbirth and abortion rates are also increased for twin pregnancies. In addition, heifer calves born twin to a bull calf are likely to be sterile due to freemartinism.

Nobody likes a diagnosis of twins at pregnancy check, but there are some strategies to lessen the risk for the cow if we know they are carrying twins. First, recheck the pregnancy after 60 days since bred since the late embryonic death rate is high in twin pregnancies, especially if both pregnancies are in the same side of the uterus.

Second, dry the cow off early. An extra 2 weeks can make a tremendous difference in the cow's condition at freshening. If you feed a close up group, you can dry the cow with twins off into the close up group directly.

Third, if the twins are in different sides of the uterus and the cow is under 42 days bred at diagnosis, it is possible to pinch a vesicle, eliminating one of the pregnancies. Unfortunately, about 40% of these cows will lose the other pregnancy too. Depending on the degree of complications in your cows that freshen with twins, it may be a risk worth taking.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn (Sept) (8/31/12) bu	\$8.02
Soybeans(Sept12) bu (8/31/12)	\$17.64
Soybean meal ton (Sept 12) (8/31/12)	\$547.00
Cheese (8/12/31)	\$1.87
Class III milk (Sept) Aug31	\$18.97
Class III milk (Oct) Aug31	\$19.76
Class III milk (Nov) Aug31	\$19.90

Upcoming Events

49th PA All- American Dairy Show
Saturday, Sept.15-Thursday, Sept 20
Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo
Center
Harrisburg, Pa.

In The News

Happy Cows 1, PETA 0

From Dairyherd.com

California "Happy Cows" will live to see another day.

The Happy Cows are part of a promotional program that was challenged in court by the animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The program calls attention to the efforts of California dairy farmers to care for the health, comfort and welfare of their cows while acting as stewards of the environment.

More than Happy Cows, the ruling actually applies more to the current "Family Farms" campaign.

Friday, the Sacramento Superior Court for the State of California denied PETA's claims that the promotional messages are false and misleading

Practice News

- Congratulations to Dr. Zawisza on completion of the Penn State Production Medicine Certificate. It was 2 ½ years in the making
- Dr. Croushore will be attending the American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA) conference in Winnepeg, CA from September 12 -15 where he will sit for the AETA certification exam.
- Dr. Welch spoke at the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota on August 18, representing the AABP committee on Veterinary Practice Sustainability .