

## Topic of the Month

### To Sell or Euthanize?

An article appeared in the July 5 issue of Farmshine describing an episode in which a cow sent to slaughter 16 days after receiving an Excede® injection (13 day meat withhold) was flagged for violative residue. The article raises several key points regarding drug use in food animals.

One point is that sick animals do not metabolize drugs as well as the healthy animals used to establish withhold times. Animals that are very sick may need an extended withhold period to clear drug residues. Second, treatments need to be recorded including animal ID, drug, dose, and route of administration. Labels must be followed. The article also points out that if you have a residue, you are in trouble whether or not treatment was documented, but if there is no documentation, you will have no defense.

Finally, there is the question of whether a cow should be culled or euthanized. The cow in the article brought \$12 at auction. The parties involved seemed to be in agreement that it would have been a wise decision to euthanize the cow.

## Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(Sept) as of Aug 30	\$4.95
Soybeans(Sep) as of Aug 30	\$14.24
Soybean meal(Sep) as of Aug 30	\$468.20
Cheese (Aug) as of Aug 30	\$1.77
Class III(Aug) as of Aug 30	\$17.89
Class III(Sept) as of Aug 30	\$17.83
Class III(Oct) as of Aug 30	\$18.19

## Practice News

- We have received some comprehensive culture kits to sample for salmonella bacteria on dairies that are sponsored and subsidized by a well-known vaccine company. If you have had issues with salmonella in the past and are interested in getting some answers, it is available to us.

## In The News

### Cow Comfort

*From Dairyherd.com*

At Black Brook Farm, cow comfort is a priority. Hal and Kerry Adams of Shortsville, N.Y., have put the comfort of their registered Holstein cows at the top of their "to do list."

"We're trying to maximize cow comfort so that we can get the best production per cow that we can," says Hal. Rubber mats were placed in the alleys to reduce slippage and also reduce lameness, while the free stall barns are bedded with sand.

High capacity fans were added recently to the farm, which has helped keep somatic cell counts down during the summer and boost production. All of these measures have "allowed us to reach 90 plus pounds per cow on twice a day milking," says Hal.

## Upcoming Events

- September 7-12: All American Dairy Show, Harrisburg.