



Topic of the Month

Dairy Beef

With the skyrocketing price of beef, many dairy farmers are choosing to raise some dairy beef. The increased price also makes it even more important for farmers to maximize the weight gain in the calves.

We recently purchased some growth promoting implants for use in beef cattle. These implants release a small amount of hormone over several months. Additional gain in implanted calves should average 23 pounds per calf over a several month period.

The cost of the implant is a mere \$2 per implanted calf. Or, if you would prefer to purchase a disk of 24 and implant them on your own, the cost is \$27 per disk of 24 implants.

With feeder calves fetching close to \$200/cwt, it doesn't take an accountant to figure out that \$2 spent for an additional 23 pounds of gain (at \$2/lb) is a good investment.

These implants are for steers and heifers that are being raised for beef. Do not use them in either beef or dairy replacement heifers as impairment of fertility may result. Calves can be implanted as young as 1 day old.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(May) as of Apr 30	\$5.14
Soybeans(May) as of Apr 30	\$15.31
Soybean meal(May) as of Apr 30	\$503.90
Cheese Apr 30	\$2.35
Class III(Apr) as of Apr 30	\$24.31
Class III(May) as of Apr 30	\$22.55
Class III(June) as of Apr 30	\$21.22

Practice News: WE HAVE TREDS

Since Tingley has quit manufacturing their 17inch overboots, many of us were left scratching our heard about what we could replace them with. So, our office will be stocking Treds brand rubber overboots. They are natural latex rubber and are almost puncture proof and resist tearing better than Tingleys. The cost is \$49 per pair. Check them out on your next visit.

In The News

Dairy Prices Seen Declining by Rabobank China Demand Ebbs

Elizabeth Campbell, Bloomberg.com

Dairy prices will slide over the next year amid increased supplies from exporting countries and weaker demand from China, according to Rabobank International.

U.S. and European producers are responding to "exceptionally strong margins" and increasing output after milk prices rose and feed costs dropped, said Tim Hunt, Rabobank's global dairy strategist. Slower economic growth will limit Chinese demand, especially after many consumers "significantly bought forward" supplies in the first three months of 2014, he said.

Class III milk futures, tracking a variety used to make cheese, on April 24 climbed to \$24.32 per 100 pounds on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the highest for the most-active contract since trading began in January 1996. Prices that surged 26 percent this year may fall to \$18.66 by the fourth quarter, Hunt said, reiterating the bank's March forecast.

There will be an "orderly easing" of dairy prices, not a crash, because China buyers will come back to the market after a "temporary lull," said Hunt. The rate of supply growth will ease in the second half of the year, he said.

Upcoming Event.

Somerset County Farm Bureau Farm Safety Day Camp
Saturday May 10 9:30 AM till 2:30 PM; Berlin Community Grove
Youth and their parents are invited to participate in a fun-filled educational day to learn farm and home safety.

\$3 per child or \$5 per family. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is recommended by May 3.

For information, call (814) 267-6711