

## Topic of the Month

### FARM 4.0

The Farmers Assuring Responsible Management program has released its latest update, known as FARM 4.0. This is the version that will be in use through the end of 2022. According to the FARM website, there are four key areas of focus.

**Animal Care-** The program demonstrates producers' commitment to excellent care of animals while producing quality milk. It provides for second and third party audits to identify both strengths and areas needing improvement.

**Environmental Stewardship-** The program provides an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions and the energy use on dairy farms.

**Antibiotic Stewardship-** The program provides continuing education for the dairy community regarding responsible use of antibiotics to keep cows healthy while also avoiding residues in meat and milk.

**Workforce Development-** The program delves into human resources and safety management practices and tries to identify which practices would be most useful to implement on a farm.

The program still requires the usual veterinarian client patient relationship (VCPR), as well as herd health plans and treatment protocols.

While co-ops will no doubt be conducting the audits with their farms, we are committed to the principles outlined in the program and look forward to being

## Commodity Futures

### Prices

As of December 31, 2020

Corn	\$4.86/bu
Soybean Meal	\$434.40/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$15.80/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$112.95/cwt

### Congratulations!!

Congratulations to our bookkeeper, Sheila Croushore, who recently passed her real estate licensing exam. If you are interested in viewing a property, contact:

Sheila Croushore  
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services  
The Preferred Realty  
Office: 814-443-4858  
Cell: 814-233-6769

### Practice News

- Dr. Charles Gardner, a veterinarian, has recently received a degree in clinical counseling. Recognizing the current severe economic depression among dairy farmers, and accompanying emotional distress and anxiety, he has made himself available to any dairy producers who would like to talk. The Center for Dairy Excellence will cover the cost of at least one session, which could be by Zoom meeting or phone. Call the office for more information.

### In The News

- In an effort to influence consumers in the "Gen Z" generation, Dairy Management Inc. is teaming with four gaming influencers on YouTube with a combined audience of over 120 million subscribers. The idea is that the influencers are given a virtual tour of dairy farms and after learning how dairies work, they will build their own dairies on Minecraft, one of the best selling video games of all time. Ninety percent of GenZ consider themselves as gamers and the goal is to engage them in the sustainability and hard work involved in producing a nutritious product to improve trust and awareness in the dairy industry.