

Topic of the Month

Selective Dry Cow Therapy

Driven by a desire to further reduce antibiotic usage on our dairies, recent research has focused on the effects of replacing the traditional practice of blanket dry cow therapy with selective dry cow therapy, in which a protocol dictates only certain cows to dry treat.

In one study, cows were considered high risk if they had a clinical mastitis event or a high SCC in the three months prior to dry off. These cows were dry treated. The low risk cows were split into two groups. One was dry treated with antibiotic plus teat sealant and the other received only teat sealant.

The findings indicated that the high risk cows were generally older cows. As expected, these cows had a higher average SCC and a higher incidence of mastitis events after freshening. For the low risk cows, their SCC remained low after freshening regardless of whether or not they received an antibiotic dry treatment. The low risk cows also showed similar rates of mastitis regardless of dry treatment status.

This is a good way to consider antibiotic use and reduce drug costs on the farm. The key is to develop a proper treatment protocol to

Practice News & Upcoming Events

- On Wednesday, October 9th, Dr. Zawisza will be attending a continuing education meeting. Dr. Steve Triol will be covering emergencies that day.
- PennState extension will hold a workshop called Tools to Reduce Mastitis on Your Farm on November 8 at 9:00 am in Somerset. The course is free but registration is required. Contact extension for more information.
- We have two trucks for sale. There is a blue Ford Ranger with a cap on the back. It will not pass inspection but would make a good farm truck. We also have a grey Ford Ranger with a Portavet unit on the back. If interested, please call the office for details and pricing.

In The News

- Late in September, the US and Japan reached a trade agreement which opened increased access to the US's third largest agricultural export market. Japan has agreed to reduce tariffs to increase market access to American food and agricultural products. This agreement is particularly important because of market inequalities due to other deals with the European Union and other countries through a Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- National Milk Producers Federation has announced updates to the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management, or FARM, program. Called the FARM Animal Care Program Version 4.0, the updated guidelines renew the call for an end to tail docking, and implement Mandatory Corrective Action Plans as needed for issues such as veterinarian engagement, euthanasia and fitness to transport animals, down cow management, disbudding calves before 8 weeks of age, herd health plans, and calf care. The changes go into effect January 1, 2020.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of September 30, 2019

Corn	\$3.88/bu
Soybean Meal	\$295.90/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$18.28/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$104.58/cwt