

Topic of the Month

Dairy Farms and Animal Care

Last week one of the dairy processors some of our clients ship milk to, along with Merck Animal Health, held a farm meeting outlining a proactive approach to responding harassment of dairy farms by organizations as PETA and HSUS. Farms that have been targeted have had undercover employees film treatment of cattle that was in most cases inhuman. It was pointed out that most farms who have been filmed had not addressed the issue of human treatment of cattle with their staff.

The goal of the meeting was to lay the ground work for farms to develop a strategic plan to insure that all people who handle cattle on a farm, do so in a human manner.

The first document is an Animal Care Commitment document that the farm will use as a yardstick for the human treatment of livestock. Basically it states that the farm is committed to the health and welfare of all animals on the farm.

The second document is the Animal Care Commitment Employee Contract that employees read and sign recognizing that mistreatment of livestock may result in immediate dismissal.

The third document, Euthanasia Policy outlines the farm's policy regarding euthanasia, while the fourth document outlines a policy in handling.

In time all farms will need to address these issues. If you have questions about these issues, please discuss it with your herd veterinarian.

Commodity Futures

Corn(Dec) as of Oct 28	\$3.55
Soybeans(Nov) as of Oct 28	\$10.01
Soybean meal(Dec) as Oct 28	\$317.50
Cheese (Oct) as of Oct 28	\$1.58
Class III(Oct) as of Oct 28	\$14.78
Class III(Nov) as of Oct 28	\$15.69
Class III(Dec) as of Sept 30	\$15.57

Practice News

Reminder: Visit www.whiteoakvetclinic for access to our online store, including prescription drugs and animal health equipment.

China Vows to Accept U.S. Beef After 13 Year Ban

Anna McConnell, Agriculture.com

After 13 years, China has finally lifted its ban on accepting U.S. beef exports. This announcement comes after China's Ministry of Agriculture concluded a review of the U.S. supply system.

The country will only accept U.S. beef that comes from animals under 30 months of age.

"China is already the world's second largest buyer of beef, and with a growing middle class, the export opportunities for U.S. cattlemen and women are tremendous," says Kent Bacus, National Cattlemen's Beef Association's director of international trade.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) is quick to note that the announcement is exciting, but China will still need to negotiate with the USDA to approve export certificates and agree to standards U.S. beef will need to meet to be accepted into China's market.

China originally halted U.S. beef imports when mad cow disease was discovered in Washington state cattle in December of 2003.

Upcoming Events

Stretching Your Dairy Dollar is a Penn State Dairy Extension meeting scheduled for November 17th at Hoss's Somerset 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Topics will include facilities, reproductive management and milk quality. Especially when milk prices are down, it is important to make the most of every dollar on the farm. This workshop will provide producers with strategies that can be used on their farms to increase production and efficiency while minimizing associated costs. Contact phone number is [814-865-1362](tel:814-865-1362) please register by November 14th. Online registry is: <https://www.cvent.com/events/stretching-your-dairy-dollar/registration-c1c94c2ce519412682af4a76d0adc2a2.aspx>