

## Topic of the Month

### Parasite Control

Parasite control is probably the most frequently appearing topic in our newsletter-and for good reason. Parasites are a very costly source of production loss, but also one of the most treatable.

Parasitic intestinal worms have a life cycle that is heavily dependent on grazing. So deworming is pretty low priority for cattle that spend their lives confined on concrete. However, for cattle that spend any part of their lives on pasture, this is a good time to deworm. We've had one pretty hard frost so far this fall. That should help to decrease the load of parasite eggs on pasture. Eliminating existing infections from the gastrointestinal tracts of the herds will allow them to maximize feed efficiency, growth, and production over the cold winter months. Furthermore, poor body condition is a frequent contributor to illness and death in livestock over winter.

There are several strategies for deworming, but for intestinal worms, it is hard to beat a feed through dewormer like Safeguard. Topical dewormers do a good job with mange and lice, but are less effective in the gut. Injectable dewormers are a compromise- limited efficacy in the gut and limited efficacy against lice and mange.

With the depressed milk price, routine things like vaccination and parasite control and often the first things to be neglected. Though it will take some time for a better milk price to help farms recover, vaccination and deworming are relatively low inputs with good returns.

## Commodity Futures

### Prices

As of October 31, 2019

Corn	\$3.90/bu
Soybean Meal	\$304.40/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$20.11/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$111.68/cwt

## Practice News & Upcoming Events

- 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

- Mastitis is a costly disease in our dairies. New research published by the University of Tennessee has focused on technology to develop a new type of vaccine against *Staph. aureus*. The research showed that inoculating cattle with proteins from *Staph chromogenes*, a different species, was protective against infection with the contagious mastitis pathogen.
- A study out of the University of Missouri identified multiple benefits to accelerated milk replacer that last long after calves are weaned. In their study, calves fed accelerated growth replacer had earlier weaning dates, improved health and fertility, and made 1,000 pounds more milk in their first lactation. Used properly, accelerated growth programs are a good tool to improve profitability in a dairy operation.
- Agsource reports that the level of inbreeding in Holstein cows has reached moderate to high levels. Driven by genomics and shorter generation intervals, Agsource data indicated that the current level of inbreeding in Holstein calves born today is 8%.