

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary

Topic of the Month

An Unusual Time for Parasites

Over the last few winters, I have observed what I think is a somewhat unusual phenomenon. I have diagnosed parasitic infections in the dead of winter.

Most people would consider parasites a summertime issues, and indeed they are. Intestinal worm infections occur when animals are grazing on pasture. The problem I observed is something I consider a carry-over effect. In years where summer is very wet or the weather remains very mild late into the year, it is possible to get very heavy parasite loads. Because the animals, particularly heifers, have access to feed and the weather is mild, they are able to handle this load.

The problem occurs when winter arrives in full force and all of a sudden it is very cold. The huge parasite load remains as a consistent energy drain for a growing animal. Because of long-standing parasitic activity, the animal has used up all of its fat and energy reserves. When the temperature drops and there is a sudden need for that reserve, there is nothing left to draw on and the animals quickly become sick and die.

My typical strategy for deworming animals that have spent the summer out on pasture is to deworm them when they come into the barn for the winter after the first hard frost. Running a parasite exam is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to start developing a strategy for your farm. Consider checking a few pen samples now to save headaches later this winter.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of November 30, 2020

Corn	\$4.19/bu
Soybean Meal	\$393.10/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$15.15/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$110.18/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

- The enrollment period for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program will be open until December 11 through FSA. Recall that the DMC offers catastrophic coverage with a milk income margin over feed cost of \$4/CWT. Higher levels of protection are available at an additional cost. If you are interested in learning more about DMC coverage for 2021, contact the FSA office for information about how to sign up.
- 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

- According to FarmJournal's MILK, October's milk production in the US was up 2.3% over October 2019. The number of milk cows on farms was 9.39 million, up 43,000 from last October, and up 14,000 from last month.