

## Topic of the Month

### IVF Embryo Transfer

Technologies continue to advance in cattle breeding and genetics. In addition to conventional embryo transfer, we are now able to offer on farm oocyte collection for in vitro embryo production. This technology offers several advantages over conventional flushing, including the ability to successfully utilize female sorted semen so that 90% of the calves produced will be heifer calves.

Oocytes are collected on farm from the donor cow or heifer and shipped overnight after processing to an off-site lab. There, the oocytes are fertilized and the resulting embryos are cultured for 6 days before being sent back to us for transfer into recipient animals.

Combining IVF embryo transfer technology with genomic analysis of replacement heifers can accelerate genetic improvement on a dairy. It can also allow dairy farms to take advantage of the high beef prices by breeding back low merit cows to beef for a more valuable market calf.

Contact us for more details and pricing.

### Commodity Futures

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Corn(Mar) as of Jan 31         | \$4.24   |
| Soybeans(Mar) as of Jan 31     | \$12.83  |
| Soybean meal(Mar) as of Jan 31 | \$426.10 |
| Cheese Jan 31                  | \$2.02   |
| Class III(Jan) as of Jan 31    | \$21.12  |
| Class III(Feb) as of Jan 31    | \$23.11  |
| Class III(Mar) as of Jan 31    | \$21.47  |

Source: CME

## Practice News

- Congratulations to Ashley Stoltzfus and her cow Kalahari for winning Supreme Champion at the PA Farm Show
- Congratulations to Evan Hillegass on exhibiting the Junior Champion crossbred market hog at the PA Farm Show.

## In The News

### January Dairy Situation and Outlook

Bob Cropp, Dairyherd.com

Milk prices are starting 2014 considerably higher than forecasted earlier. All dairy product prices strengthened starting in early January. Normally prices weaken the end of December going into January as holidays have ended.

Factors explaining the strength in dairy product prices include milk production and favorable domestic sales and strong exports, both of which tightened stocks. With only a small increase in milk production for the last quarter of last year, dairy product production was not as high.

Exports have been a big factor for higher prices. Butter and butterfat exports for November were 215% higher than a year ago. Butter manufactures were making more 82%-fat butter for export, tightening 80%-fat butter for the domestic market. November cheese exports were 54% higher than a year ago and, for the first 11 months, 56 million lbs. higher than 2012's record cheese exports for the entire year. November nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were 54% higher than last year, and dry whey exports were 15% higher. Shifting from nonfat dry milk production to skim milk powder production for exports tightened nonfat dry milk supplies.

But, with high slaughter cow prices, cow numbers may not increase much, and lower forage quality could reduce the increase in milk per cow. The result would be less-than-expected increase in milk production, keeping milk prices strong. And, of course, weather conditions impacting this year's crops will also be an important factor.

## Upcoming Event

February 6, **Producer Meeting**, Berlin Community Building, 10AM-2PM

February 12-13, **Dairy Summit**, State College  
Topics include: Incorporating shredlage into ration; High forage diet rations; Transition cow management strategies; Double and triple cropping and other "musts see's" To register visit [www.padairysummit.org](http://www.padairysummit.org) or call 877-326-5993 (**this meeting is packed with new information**)