

## Topic of the Month

### The VFD one month later

The Veterinary Feed Directive has been law for a month now. So what have we learned? One of the goals of this program is to reduce the amount of antibiotic being fed to livestock. Transitioning into directives has led to a lot questions and confusion. This will likely help to achieve that goal. But the differences in feed additive label instructions and traditional treatment practices also help to illustrate a point. Most of the diseases we encounter in livestock operations are management diseases. There are certainly circumstances where it makes sense to prophylactically medicate animals, however, antibiotic use can also be a band aid. This suggests a critical evaluation. We need to be asking the questions: Is it appropriate to treat these animals in this way? Is there something that can be changed on our farm to prevent this situation in the future? And is this likely to work? To state this last question another way, if an animal is really sick, we need to sort it and treat it with an injectable antibiotic rather than counting on it to eat enough medicated feed to treat itself.

As we work through these growing pains, it is also a good time to revisit farm protocols. If you don't have any, we are prepared to use the FARM program template to work with you to generate a set of protocols for your farm.

## Commodity Futures

Corn(Mar) as of Jan 31	\$3.60
Soybeans(Mar) as of Jan 31	\$10.24
Soybean meal(Mar as Jan 31	\$334.69
Cheese (Jan) as of Jan 31	\$1.58
Class III (Jan) as of Jan 31	\$16.75
Class III (Feb) as of Jan 31	\$16.71
Class III (Mar) as of Jan 31	\$17.15

## Practice News

Dr. Dan Zawisza will be speaking at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Dairy Day to be held Thursday, March 9 in Blairsville. Topics for discussion include the veterinary feed directive, updated FARM program audits, and pain control. The event is free but pre-registration is required and can be done by contacting Penn State Extension.

## New National Milk Production Record Set

*from Dairyherd.com*

Ever-Green-View My Gold-ET has set a new single-lactation national milk production record. Bred and owned by the Kestell family's Ever-Green-View Holsteins in Waldo, Wis., My Gold-ET calved at four years and three months, and set a 365-day record of 77,480 pounds of milk, with 1,992 pounds of fat and 2,055 pounds of protein.

By comparison, the actual production average for all U.S. Holstein herds enrolled in production-testing programs in 2015 was 24,958 pounds of milk, 920 pounds of butterfat and 710 pounds of protein. My Gold's production breaks the record set by Bur-Wall Buckeye Gigi, owned by Behnke family, Brooklyn, Wis., in 2015, of 74,650 pounds of milk in 365 days.

"My Gold-ET is an exceptional milk cow that comes from a line of strong genetics. When we produce offspring we never plan on setting another record. Setting a record while surpassing her dam is amazing to me. There is no doubt in my mind that genetics play a role," explains Tom Kestell.

Ever-Green-View Holsteins is owned by Tom and Gin Kestell. They milk 94 cows with a BAA of 111.4 percent, and all but three cows are Excellent in the udder. Ever-Green-View's Rolling Herd Average is 44,122 pounds of milk, 1,680 pounds of fat, and 1,362 pounds of protein.

## Upcoming Events

**Producer Meeting:** In cooperation with Rob's Rations, Old Lincoln Vet Service and Casselman Veterinary Services, we are hosting a producer meeting at the Berlin Community Center on Friday, February 17 at 10:30AM. RSVP by Feb. 10 to the office.