

## Topic of the Month

### What is a VCPR?

Over the last year, many farmers have been asked to get a paper signed stating that they have a valid VCPR or veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The form asks for a name, contact information, and signature. That seems simple enough, however, the VCPR actually consists of specific requirements. It requires (1) that the veterinarian has agreed to assume responsibility for making judgments about the health of the animal(s) and the client will abide by those judgments, (2) that the vet is familiar with the animals by farm visit or physical exam (ie, asking for advice on the phone does not qualify), (3) that the veterinarian is available for follow-up or emergency care, (4) that the vet can provide oversight for treatment, compliance, and outcome, and (5) that treatment records are kept. If these conditions are not met, then there is not a valid VCPR.

## Commodity Futures

Corn(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$3.67
Soybeans(Mar) as of Feb 28	\$10.25
Soybean meal(Mar as Feb 28	\$332.60
Cheese (Jan) as of Feb 28	\$1.69
Class III (Jan) as of Feb 28	\$16.87
Class III (Feb) as of Feb 28	\$16.27
Class III (Mar) as of Feb 28	\$16.21

## Practice News

### Southwest Dairy Day

Dr. Dan Zawisza will be speaking at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Dairy Day to be held Thursday, March 9 in Blairsville. The veterinary update will include the Veterinary Feed Directive and information about the VCPR, farm protocols, and pain control in calves. The event is free but pre-registration is required and can be done by contacting Penn State Extension.

### New Dehorning Policy

Effective immediately, we will no longer provide large dehornings with the Keystone dehorners. This has become a welfare issue and this would be a very hard practice to defend as sound animal husbandry. Repeated appointments to gouge out horns that are too large to burn will also be refused. Please make it a point to get calves dehorned before weaning.

## Ready or not, change is here.

*from Dairy Star*

Starting Jan. 1, producers who are part of a co-operative that is a part of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) will have to adhere to the changes to the latest version (3.0) of the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program. The updates include creating a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) to better document the working relationship with a veterinarian and having a signed dairy cattle ethics and training agreement with employees. The most concerning change to dairy farmers is the elimination of tail docking.

## Upcoming Events

### Farm Succession Planning Workshop

When: March 30, 2017, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Indiana, PA

Deciding long-term plans for a farming business is difficult. This workshop will provide guidance for how to approach the farm succession planning process, touching on some of the key factors with experienced advisors and educators - communication, legal issues, and evaluation of the financial situation.