

Topic of the Month

Grazing issues

The snow is long gone and the grass has returned once again. If your cattle have returned to pasture, it's time again to consider a couple of things.

Grass tetany is a disease caused by low blood magnesium. It can affect both beef and dairy cattle after having delivered a calf and they can remain susceptible for several weeks. The high potassium content of lush grass that cattle graze this time of year can interfere with magnesium uptake from the gut, leaving lactating animals deficient in magnesium.

It is preventable by making sure cattle have access to a high magnesium mineral in the pasture or by supplementing it in the ration. Cattle should consume about 2 oz per head per day of this mineral. Dairy cattle on pasture should have the magnesium in their ration increased when grazing lush grass.

And with the grazing season also comes parasites. Worms are active this time of year and shedding countless eggs that contaminate pastures and infect grazing animals all summer long.

Strategic deworming can reduce parasite's impact on your livestock. Contact us about strategic deworming before it's too late.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(May) as of Apr 29	\$3.90
Soybeans(May) as of Apr 29	\$10.21
Soybean meal(May) as of Apr 29	\$332.10
Cheese (Apr) as of Apr 29	\$1.51
Class III(Apr) as of Apr 29	\$13.62
Class III(May) as of Apr 29	\$13.17
Class III(Jun) as of Apr 29	\$13.26

Practice News

New Product : Imrestor

From approximately 60 days before to 30 days after calving, is a challenging for dairy cows and producers. During this time there is negative energy balance and immune suppression occur in many cows, leaving them vulnerable to conditions such as ketosis, displaced abomasum, ovarian dysfunction, retained placenta, metritis and mastitis. This summer Elanco will be introducing a new (non-antibiotic) drug, Imrestor, that has been shown to boost immunity and reduce mastitis in early lactation. This drug will be receiving a lot of attention and we will be happy to discuss the pros and cons of its use with you.

In The News

Yogurt Buyers Send Dannon Back to the Farm. *New Your Times*

The yogurt giant Dannon, looking to tap into the public's growing concern about the source of its food, is establishing a direct pipeline to some farms that supply the company with milk, part of an ambitious plan to influence farm practices right down to the dirt. Under a new supply system that the company will announce on Wednesday, farmers in the program must adhere to Dannon-dictated animal welfare standards and work to improve and conserve soil on their farms, among other things. Sourcing milk directly is a sharp departure from the way big dairy companies usually get their milk. Typically, dairy farms load their milk into refrigerated trucks, which take it to a plant where it is combined with milk from other farms and processed. Now, all the milk in Dannon's yogurt will come directly from farms and two co-ops, whose members have agreed to the plan. The suppliers have said they will follow the animal welfare standards set by Validus a third-party certification company; these include providing cattle shades to reduce heat stress, and prohibiting tail-docking. The farms and co-op members have also agreed to take steps to change their farm management to deliver the environmental benefits Dannon seeks.

Upcoming Events

Somerset County farm Safety Day, will be held at the Berlin Community Grove on May 7 (Saturday) from 9:30 AM till 2:30 PM. Registration is \$3 per child or \$5 per family (includes lunch). Registration should be made through the Somerset County Extension Office.