

Topic of the Month

Leaky gut

At a recent veterinary meeting, I learned about a topic I had never heard of before. The lecturer explained that many scenarios we commonly encounter in cattle, such as heat stress, empty feed bunks, and feed changes cause measurable changes to the microscopic structure of a cow's gastrointestinal tract. This disruption can allow bacteria to cross into the bloodstream.

Evidence suggests that leaky gut could play a role in many diseases, including diarrhea, heat stroke, and hemorrhagic bowel syndrome, among others.

This leaky gut phenomenon is also seen in many other animals as a response to stress. One example given was the case of a person about to take a major exam having to make an urgent trip to the bathroom. What we might attribute to nerves is probably more so a biological response to stress.

In our cattle, the consequences can be severe. Bacteria entering the bloodstream can rapidly cause death. Prevention of this leaky gut phenomenon should be directed at minimizing stress in all its forms- prioritizing cow comfort, cooling, allowing adequate eating time of a consistent, balanced ration, and preventing empty bunks. Of course, we all know these things are important. Leaky gut just offers one more mechanism to explain how things can go very wrong when we neglect the basics.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of April 30, 2018

Corn	\$3.92/bu
Soybean Meal	\$392.10/ton
Milk (Class III-April)	\$14.50/cwt
Beef (Live cattle-April)	\$123.75/cwt

Practice News

• Upcoming collections for IVF

- Herr Angus. May 7, 21 and June 4.
- Paul Neer. May 9, 23 and June 6.
- Crowell Dairy. May 17.
- Pennwood Dairy. May 24
- Angus Hill Farm. May 31
- Apple Shamrock Dairy (Crawford County). June 7

In The News

- According to an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, New Zealand based Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, the world's biggest dairy exporter, and Nestlé SA will begin launching products produced with A2 milk. This follows on the success of a2 Milk Co., which has enjoyed tremendous growth. A2 milk lacks the A1 casein protein, which many people claim causes indigestion. At this time, however, there is not scientific evidence that A2 milk has nutritional or health benefits beyond those of regular milk.
- A bipartisan group of 68 representatives from the US Congress sent a letter to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer urging him to demand an end to Canada's Class 7 pricing program, which imposes tariffs of 200-300 percent on US dairy exports. This was part of an effort to ensure American dairy a fair chance to compete in Canadian markets during NAFTA negotiations.