

Topic of the Month

Down Cow Management

Down cows are without question one of the most difficult parts of cattle farming. They require immediate attention, even if outside help is delayed. Here are some things that you need to keep in mind about downers.

First, if the cause is milk fever, get her treated with calcium as soon as possible. Every hour on the concrete can worsen muscle damage caused by her massive weight. IV treatment with calcium is best, but if only oral is available, it's better than nothing until help can arrive.

Second, if she doesn't respond to IV calcium within a couple of hours, call us for an exam. Many downer fresh cows are not milk fever and a proper diagnosis can be the key to getting her on her feet.

Third, if she doesn't respond to treatment, she needs to be made comfortable. Get her off the concrete if that's where she went down and place her outside on dirt if weather permits or on a dry bedded manure pack if not. Make sure she is laying in a normal position and her feet aren't tangled under her. Provide access to fresh water and feed and roll her from side to side to slow the progression of muscle damage every 6 hours.

Finally, if she isn't standing within 24 hours, consider euthanasia. Most but not all cows that are down for over 24 hours never get up. Letting her linger just prolongs her misery. An evaluation would be useful in providing a prognosis.

Commodity Futures

Corn (July) as of May 31	\$3.72
Soybean (July) as of May 31	\$9.16
Soybean meal (July) as May 31	\$298.10
Cheese (May) as of May 31	\$1.54
Class III (May) as of May 31	\$15.61
Class III (June) as of May 31	\$16.70
Class III (July) as of May 31	\$17.26

Practice News

Congratulations:

Dr. and Mrs. Zawisza are the proud parents of a third child, Dominic William Zawisza, born May 12.

Dairy cow genomic feed efficiency study nearing completion

From: Bloomfieldagnews.com

Dr. Kent Weigel is the chairman of Dairy Science department, specializing in breeding and genetics. He says, "We're trying to do 8,000 cows, we're over 6,000 so far, and form a genomic reference population that then we can use to make predictions for feed efficiency. You know, using those data (sets), we can predict the feed efficiency of any heifer calf or the feed efficiency daughters of any bull at any breeding company."

Weigel tells Brownfield the study has required a lot of labor over the past five years, making detailed measurements of each cow. "Specifically, how efficiently does each cow utilize the energy that she consumes, and in order to do that you measure every individual cow's feed intake for a couple of months in the middle of lactation."

Weigel says the results of the research will be available to the industry soon, saying, "Within the next month or later this year."

Weigel says measuring feed efficiency on this scale wouldn't have been possible a few years ago, but genomics technology has reduced the expense and labor.

Upcoming Events

Youth Dairy Day - Southwest PA (Fayette)

Youth Dairy Day is open to all youth ages 5-18 who are interested in learning about dairy management topics, including Obstetrics, Feed Commodities, Udder Health / Dissection, and Differentiating Dairy Foods.. When(Date/Time) July 18, 2017, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Where Fayette County Fairgrounds July 18, 2017, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Contact Andrew Sandeen Phone 724-465-3880.