

Topic of the Month

Pregnancy Rate

Pregnancy rate, or PR, is a very misunderstood metric that we use to characterize herd reproductive performance. For example, many people think that if I breed 10 cows and 5 become pregnant, my PR is 50%. That is wrong. That example describes conception rate. The PR takes a broader perspective, and looks at not just the conception rate, but also the heat detection. That's it, in a nutshell. $PR = \text{heat detection} \times \text{conception rate}$.

The wisdom in recent years has been that if your PR is over 20%, you're doing well. But using a combination of good heat detection and breeding protocols that improve conception rate, some high producing dairy herds now achieve pregnancy rates over 30%.

The upshot is that since heat detection and conception rate are the only things that play into pregnancy rate, those are the only things to focus on to improve your pregnancy rate, and often, that can involve very inexpensive changes. With the heat of summer upon us, this is a good time to review your protocols and see if there's anything you can do to improve your heat detection or give your conception a little boost.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of May 31, 2018

Corn (July)	\$3.94/bu
Soybean Meal (July)	\$375.30/ton
Milk (Class III-July)	\$16.38/cwt
Beef (Live cattle-June)	\$105.05/cwt

Practice News

- A backorder has been announced for penicillin and Polyflex, including the generic US Vet ampicillin. The penicillin backorder is indefinite, but Polyflex is expected to be available again in late June.
- White Oak will be sponsoring a day of Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training together with the PA Beef Council. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for late June or early July, and will provide participants with their BQA certification. This is an opportunity for dairy, as well as beef farmers. In order to move forward, we need to guarantee 25 participants. Please stay tuned for updated information.

In The News

- A recent article from *New York Daily News* suggests that camel milk is the latest dairy trend for rising demand worldwide. The article suggests that compared to cow's milk, camel milk is lower in fat, equal in protein and calories, and higher in vitamins, but also much more expensive. An eye-catching observation from the article is as follows: "The rise in popularity of camel's milk comes at a time when traditional cow's milk is being shunned for a number of other options — like hemp and nut milks, — and some even more obscure options, like cockroach milk."
- According to a study funded by National Dairy Council, eating two or more cups of yogurt a week is associated with a lower risk for developing cardiovascular disease in adults who have high blood pressure.