

## Topic of the Month

### Cannabis

Recent laws legalizing marijuana in some states led to the 2018 farm bill recognizing hemp as a legitimate commercial agricultural crop (provided it contains less than 0.3% of the psychoactive compound known as THC). This has led to speculation regarding the value of hemp and its byproducts as a feed source for cattle.

Marijuana has been used for both treatment of chronic pain and appetite stimulation, and while I have not seen any, there is rumored to be some limited research showing some value for hemp in cattle as an aid in reproduction, feed intake, and stress relief.

Whether or not hemp will ever become a feedstuff remains to be seen. There would need to be a good deal more research and clinical trials to prove safety and efficacy, especially in a food animal.

Even if hemp does prove to be useful in rations, it would need to be demonstrated to be cost-effective. Since it is just coming on scene as a legal crop, the cost is yet to be determined.

It seems that this feed is grabbing attention because it is trendy. There is certainly potential, but it is likely to be similar to any other crop. If it can be feed effectively for production and the price is right, use it. If it is too expensive or difficult to handle, don't. Either way, it will take some time before it becomes available.

## Commodity Futures

### Prices

As of May 31, 2019

Corn	\$4.27/bu
Soybean Meal	\$321.30/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.38/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$108.48/cwt

## Practice News & Upcoming Events

- Show season is nearly upon us. In order to expedite the process of veterinary inspection and the completion of health charts, we have adopted a policy that when scheduling an appointment, you will be asked to provide information such as the name and address of the show and official ID for each of the animals. This will allow us to inspect the animals, verify ID, and sign health charts quickly on the farm. This is especially important because state departments of agriculture will flag health charts with incorrect or incomplete information and can potentially quarantine animals.
- Polyflex has been placed on backorder. Our suppliers say it should be available again in early June, however, backorders are notoriously unreliable. We will begin carrying Polyflex or its generic equivalent as soon as it becomes available.
- The Somerset County 4H Dairy Show and the Black and White Show will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## In The News

- President Trump has accused China of going back on concessions they made in a trade deal and has responded by increasing tariffs on Chinese goods. Recognizing that farmers have borne the brunt of this trade war disproportionately, the federal government has created a \$16 billion bailout package. Unlike the first bailout package, this round will make direct payments to farmers based on production history. Payments will be made in three rounds with the first round coming as early as July and the last round coming around the beginning of next year.