

## Topic of the Month

### Haylage

This time of year always seems to see feed supplies running short for one reason or another and it is a welcome change from the nasty, wet weather we've been having to see crews starting to chop haylage.

It also makes me think of things that can go wrong. In my last year of vet school, I remember wrapping up a day of calls with the resident and then sitting and watching a packing tractor go back and forth over a bunk of corn silage. From then on, the importance of getting the fermentation process right was never lost on me.

In addition to helping ensure particle size in the ration, haylage is a valuable source of protein. But if it doesn't ferment properly, listeriosis is high on the list of disease concerns. This can result in neurologic signs and abortions, as well as being potentially fatal.

One of the other issues I observe occasionally, especially related to poor haylage fermentation is ketosis. When I diagnose ketosis in cows that are not typical ketosis candidates (cows that are not fresh cows), haylage is the first thing I ask about. If haylage does not ferment well and the fatty acid profile is shifted from acetate and propionate to butyric acid (think rancid butter smell), the haylage can contribute directly to ketosis as a primary disease, as opposed to a result of metritis or displaced abomasum.

This is a busy time of year for lots of folks and especially those in agriculture. So when the workload is overwhelming and packing trenches gets boring, just remember that what you're doing is one of the most important things you can do to preserve cow health for the next year.

## Commodity Futures

### Prices

As of May 31, 2020

Corn	\$3.26/bu
Soybean Meal	\$283.20/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$18.50/cwt (July)
Beef (Live cattle)	\$99.73/cwt

## Practice News

- Dr. Charles Gardner, a veterinarian, has recently received a degree in clinical counseling. Recognizing the current severe economic depression among dairy farmers, and accompanying emotional distress and anxiety, he has made himself available to any dairy producers who would like to talk. The Center for Dairy Excellence will cover the cost of at least one session, which could be by Zoom meeting or phone. Call the office for more information.
- Direct relief payments are available to dairy producers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Payments are eligible for milk production and dumped milk, as well as cull cows, bull calves, steers, and dairy heifers sold for beef. The application process opened on May 26 and applications will be accepted through August 28. You must apply through the local FSA office.
- We have discontinued use of the answering service for after-hours calls. Calls to the office phone outside of normal business hours will be forwarded to the phone of the veterinarian on call.
- The Center for Dairy Excellence is constantly updating information and resources available to dairy producers during this pandemic. The CDE can also be contacted at 717-346-0849 or you can visit online at [centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/](https://centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/).

## In the News

- According to *Farm Journal's Milk*, despite a slowing economy and global trade, China continues to buy up large amounts of whole milk powder. The purchase total for the first four months of 2020 were within 0.2% of the total for the same period from 2019.