

Topic of the Month

Biosecurity

Recently, there have been several reports of livestock diseases cropping up in places where they had not previously been. In North Dakota, a beef cow tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. Just like Pennsylvania, North Dakota is considered a tuberculosis free state. There have also been reports of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus in swine herds in the US. This disease only affects swine, however, it was previously unknown in this country.

Tuberculosis is spread mainly by bacteria that are exhaled or in saliva, especially in poorly ventilated areas. Epidemic diarrhea is spread in swine herds through manure. While neither of these events is likely to cause an issue for dairy producers in Pennsylvania, they represent two of the more common means of disease spread in livestock.

This is an opportunity to review biosecurity protocols in your herd. Are there any protocols in place? Are they written down? Are animals well vaccinated? If new animals are purchased, can they be quarantined before mingling with the herd? Are young animals moved in groups to minimize stress and new disease exposure and are pens cleaned between groups? Is there anything that could be done to improve ventilation? How is manure handled?

This case of bovine tuberculosis was caught during testing and due to current protocols, it is unlikely to cause any problem. The epidemic diarrhea virus appeared in spite of good biosecurity protocols and veterinarians are working to contain it, because no one knows where it came from. Nevertheless, it demonstrates the need for a proactive approach to disease prevention on every farm.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn(July) as of June 28	\$6.79
Soybeans(July) as of June 28	\$15.64
Soybean meal(July) as of June 28	\$490.30
Cheese (June) as of June 28	\$1.78
Class III(June) as of June 28	\$18.02
Class III(July) as of June 28	\$16.72
Class III(Aug) as of June 28	\$17.55

Practice News

- Congratulations to Dr. Dan and Bethany Zawisza on the Arrival of Gabriel Jude Zawisza on June 21, 2013.
- On July 15, Connie Welch will retire from White Oak Veterinary Clinic after 40 years as office manager. We wish Connie well in her retirement endeavors.
- Just a reminder about Saturdays: the office will no longer be staffed. We will still make routine calls until noon and emergencies only after noon. Please try to pick up medicines before Saturday, but if necessary, we will be available to set out medicines if called before noon.

In The News

Corn Leads Grain Plunge as Acreage Tops Analysts Estimates from Agweb.com

June 28 (Bloomberg) -- Corn futures tumbled to a 32-month low, while soybeans and wheat fell to the cheapest in a year, after the government said U.S. farmers will plant more grain than forecast and the largest oilseed crop ever.

Planting of corn, the biggest domestic crop, jumped to 97.379 million acres, the most since 1936, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said today in a report. Analysts in a Bloomberg survey expected 95.431 million. Wheat acreage reached a four-year high of 56.53 million, and soybeans were sown on a record 77.728 million. Corn dropped for the seventh straight session, and wheat capped the longest slump since December 2009.

Corn futures for delivery in December tumbled 5.1 percent to close at \$5.11 a bushel at 1:15 p.m. on the Chicago Board of Trade, the biggest decline for the price after the harvest since March 28. The price touched \$5.06, the lowest for the most-active contract since Oct. 8, 2010.

Upcoming Events

- Week of July 1. Somerset County Dairy Show, Meyersdale Fairgrounds
- July 11. 40th Anniversary celebration/ Open House.