

## Topic of the Month

### What is a cyst?

Cystic cows can be one of the most frustrating findings during herd checks. It seems like they go in spells and once they start, they can be hard to fix. So what is a cyst?

A cyst is just a follicle that fails to ovulate. During follicular waves, one follicle should become dominant and when a cow comes into heat, the follicle ovulates and she can become pregnant. But if she fails to ovulate, the follicle continues to grow and suppress the growth of other follicles, creating infertility. These cows present one of two ways—either they are in heat all the time, or they don't come into heat at all.

There are multiple possible causes for cysts. They can be caused by genetics, by stresses such as weather fluctuations, or by the ration as in the case of feed changes or inadequate energy.

Normally, we treat cysts with GnRH, but sometimes they do not respond. In some cases, a cow will need to go through an entire ovsynch cycle before she can eliminate a cyst. Some cases are even resistant to that. If there is an underlying problem such as overcrowding or ration problem, the cysts are unlikely to resolve until the bigger problem is corrected.

This is a very common time of year to see cystic cows because the feed situation is something of a moving target as bunks and silos are emptied and filled. Finding lots of cystic cows is a good reason to look at the ration. Sample new feedstuffs often. Make sure there is adequate space at the feed alley. And be sure to pay attention to irregular heat cycles and breeding.

## Commodity Futures

### Prices

As of June 30, 2020

Corn	\$3.38/bu
Soybean Meal	\$286.30/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$20.97/cwt (July)
Beef (Live cattle)	\$91.65/cwt

## Practice News

- Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors. One of the most memorable parts of my career to date has been watching this generation of kids grow into adults. Congratulations especially to Nolan Croushore, son of Dr. Bill and Sheila, who graduated high school last month.
- 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/).