

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month

Don't Forget About Your Heifers

Every spring, it seems like I pregnancy check a lot of heifers. And then as soon as the fences get repaired, the heifers get kicked out onto the back 40 until fall. But I will contend that even though the heifers might not need to be managed as intensely as the lactating herd, they still need to be managed.

Even though they are not milking, heifers can develop mastitis infections that will affect them into their lactation. Poor body condition can predispose to illness, while overconditioning can lead to calving difficulties or fatty infiltration in the udder. Heifers suckling each other can cause blind quarters. And if a bred heifer should lose her pregnancy, you would certainly want to make a management decision about her sooner than later.

Besides preventing issues, taking care of your heifers can actually increase their milk production when they do start to lactate.

So don't wait until you see buzzards circling to remind you about your heifers. Check in on them once in a while and make sure they are doing well. It's a zero cost input that will turn them into more productive cows.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of June 30, 2021

Corn	\$7.20/bu
Soybean Meal	\$375.50/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.91/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$122.50/cwt

Practice News

- Our intern, Curtis Patton, has been running a parasite control program during the month of June. If you are still interested in having samples run, contact the office for availability. Curtis is currently completing his Master's Degree in parasite immunology. He is conducting McMaster's Fecal Egg Counts, a quantitative technique that will allow for follow-up testing to evaluate treatment efficacy, when indicated. The program will offer reduced fee manure testing and dewormer purchases. Call the office for details or information, including which cows to test and how to collect samples.
- **CORRECTION:** Farm Vitality Planning Grants are available. They are administered by the PA Department of Agriculture (not the Center for Dairy Excellence, as previously stated). These grants provide up to \$7,500 that can be used to help cover planning expenses for expansions or a management or ownership transfer for current or prospective farmers. The application period is now open and will continue until funding runs out.
- Drug update: d-Panthenol is no longer available. Tomorrow dry cow treatment will not be available at least for the remainder of this year because the FDA will not currently travel to inspect and approve a raw ingredient source.

Rebate Opportunity

- Zoetis is running a rebate program on purchases of Draxxin. The program is retroactive to 1/1/2021 and extends until 12/31/2021. Producers can earn a rebate of \$50 on 50mL size and \$100 on 100mL size bottles of Draxxin. Call the office for details on the program.