

Topic of the Month

Pharmacology primer

We have seen on several occasions cows treated with oral medications that will interact with each other. The most striking example is the use of oral calcium supplements along with oral phosphate supplements.

When a cow is fresh and goes down with milk fever, many farmers opt to treat with an oral calcium supplement before giving injectable calcium. If, however, the cow doesn't respond to the intravenous calcium, the cow may also be suffering from low blood phosphate. The recommended method of phosphate supplementation is with ½ pound of monosodium phosphate.

Here's where it gets tricky. Calcium and phosphate, when mixed together in water form an insoluble complex called calcium phosphate. This complex does not dissolve in water (or rumen fluid) and becomes unavailable to the cow. Neither the calcium or the phosphate can help the cow in this form.

Never give oral calcium supplements and oral phosphate supplements at the same time. It is, however, OK to give injectable calcium and oral phosphate together. Oral phosphate supplements should not be given within 6 hours of oral calcium. If you think phosphate supplementation may be necessary, withhold oral calcium products and only give injectable calcium.

Commodity Futures

Corn(Sept) as of July 29	\$3.34
Soybeans(Aug) as of July 29	\$10.32
Soybean meal(Aug) as July 29	\$350.00
Cheese (Aug) as of July 29	\$1.64
Class III(July as of July 29	\$15.26
Class III(Aug) as of July 29	\$16.84
Class III(Sept) as of July 29	\$16.79

Source: CME

Practice News

County Fairs

Believe it or not, fair season is upon us. Remember to call and make an appointment for your vaccinations and health papers. When possible, we will try to schedule clients in an area together.

Labor Day

The office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

In The News

President Likely to Sign GMO-labeling Law Friday *(from Farm Journal's Milk)*

President Barack Obama is likely to sign the biotech/genetically-modified organism (GMO) labeling law this Friday, says Jim Mulhern, President and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). Then, USDA will get to work writing the regulations on how the law will actually work.

USDA's task will be two fold. First, it must undertake a study to determine the feasibility of using electronic Quick Read (QR) codes and digital links to disclaimers as alternatives to printed text on labels. The study must be completed within a year. The second task is to write the actual regulations governing labels. The law requires that the regulations be completed within two years.

Aside from seeking national legislation that would preempt state and local GMO-labeling laws, NMPF had three goals when it was trying to shape the biotech/GMO labeling law as it wound through Congress:

- Establish that the consumption of biotech animal feed does not make the milk or meat a biotech food.
- Establish that the definition of a bio-engineered food focus on foods that actually contain genetic material that has been modified using recombinant DNA technology.

- Prevent requiring words on labels.

Mulhern says NMPF has the same goals for the actual regulations that USDA must now write.

Upcoming Events

Ag Progress Days.

August 16- 18

Somerset County Fair.

August 20-27