

Topic of the Month

Getting Ready for the Fair

Somerset County's fair will take place later this month. Now is the time to make sure your animals will meet the health requirements. In order to be effective, the final dose of a vaccine should be given at least two weeks before the animals leave the farm.

Cattle are required to be vaccinated against shipping fever and rabies. Swine are required to receive two doses of an Erysipelas vaccine. Breeding sheep are also required to be vaccinated for rabies.

The rabies vaccine has been controversial in years past. Studies have tried to demonstrate its efficacy by measuring titers, or levels of protective antibodies, in vaccinated animals. Not all animals will respond to this vaccine, particularly animals that are vaccinated young, but it does appear that older animals and animals that have been vaccinated in consecutive years will tend to have a titer. We assume this is protective, as the antibodies seem to provide good levels of protection in other animals such as dogs and people.

Finally, all animals must have official identification in the form of an official USDA metal, scrapie, or 840 tag.

Please call the office to schedule inspection for health certificates. When calling, please have the ID, age, sex, breed, and vaccination information for your animals. To save time, we will have the health charts filled out before inspection so that on farm, we can verify ID, inspect, and sign.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of July 31, 2018

Corn (July)	\$3.72/bu
Soybean Meal (July)	\$341.20/ton
Milk (Class III-July)	\$14.12/cwt
Beef (Live cattle-June)	\$107.66/cwt

Practice News

- Dr. John McCormack will be pursuing an opportunity in equine practice, effective immediately. Through our transition, we will strive to maintain the same high level of service. We appreciate your patience as Drs. Zawisza and Croushore work out our new schedule.
- Dr. Croushore has published his first book. It is a 250 page compilation of articles he authored in the *Daily American* and is titled, "Oops,...and other Words You Don't Like to Hear Your Surgeon Say". It will be available for purchase for \$16.95 (plus tax) at the office, the *Daily American*, other retailers and at www.madeinsomersetcounty.com. At the risk of sounding presumptuous, signed copies are available upon request.

In The News

- The supervisors of Todd Township, Huntingdon county, PA, have passed a law banning "industrial farming", which is defined as farms where the animals are not owned locally, most of the revenue does not stay in the township, or the farms are contrary to the scenic values that provide the township's rural character. According to an online article in **Farm Journal's Milk**, similar laws have been passed and struck down before because they overstep the township's authority and are in violation of state law. The legality of the statute has already been challenged with the state Attorney General's office.

Upcoming Events

- The 118th Somerset County Fair will be held August 18-25, 2018.