

Topic of the Month

Show Season

Show season is upon us. In order to expedite the process of veterinary inspection and the completion of health charts, we have adopted a policy that when scheduling an appointment, you will be asked to provide information such as the name and address of the show and official ID for each of the animals. This will allow us to inspect the animals, verify ID, and sign health charts quickly on the farm. This is especially important because state departments of agriculture will flag health charts with incorrect or incomplete information and can potentially quarantine animals. We will not schedule appointments without the information. Additionally, while we make every effort to ensure that animals have met the requirements for a given fair, our practice area extends into at least eight counties and it can be difficult to keep the requirements straight. It is actually the responsibility of the client to know what their animals need and to verify the accuracy of the health chart information.

The health chart, more formally known as a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, or CVI, serves as a legal document for admission to fairs and shows, as well as interstate and international travel. It is not a pre-purchase exam. The purpose is to document that animals are not showing clinical signs of contagious disease in an effort to prevent exposing other animals and precipitating an outbreak. It would not guarantee, for example, that an animal is not lame or does not have a heart defect, although if such signs were present, an animal would likely be rejected because it would not be prudent to send any sick animal to the fair.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of July 31, 2019

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Corn | \$4.00/bu |
| Soybean Meal | \$298.20/ton |
| Milk (Class III) | \$17.55/cwt |
| Beef (Live cattle) | \$106.90/cwt |

Practice News & Upcoming Events

- We extend our prayers and condolences for Dr. Bob Bastian and his family. Dr. Bastian passed away in July as a result of a farming accident. He was a veterinarian who served our area before trading in his barn boots for a seat in the PA House of Representative. He was a tremendous friend of agriculture and a very good man.
- The following are dates for upcoming fairs:
Somerset county- August 17-24
Westmoreland county- August 16-24
Indiana county- August 25-31
- We have two trucks for sale. There is a blue Ford Ranger with a cap on the back. It will not pass inspection but would make a good farm truck. We also have a grey Ford Ranger with a Portavet unit on the back. If interested, please call the office for details and pricing.

In The News

- According to *Drovers*, McDonald's is moving forward with their responsible antibiotic stewardship program. They have defined three R's- refine, reduce, and replace as their goals when it comes to antibiotic use.

The same article cites FDA statistics showing that domestic sales and distribution of medically important antibiotics used in food animal production dropped 14% from 2014-2015, and 33% from 2016-2017, indicating that US producers have committed to this goal.

On another front, McDonald's has released a vegan burger in Germany, and is being pursued by plant-based company Beyond Meat. Analysts say a deal may be likely in order for McDonald's to have a sandwich offering to compete with Burger King's plant-based Whopper. Additionally, the former CEO and COO of McDonald's sits on Beyond Meat's board. A deal would likely lead to a big boost in Beyond Meat's stock.