

## Topic of the Month Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

### What do we do about dry cow treatment?

One of the more common questions I've been fielding lately is what to do about the inavailability of some popular dry cow treatments.

It's a tough problem. For some medications over the years, we've been able to get an alternative compounded, that is, manufactured by a different pharmacy. I think that is unlikely where mastitis treatments are concerned. I don't have all the answers, but I think there are a few points to consider.

First of all, do we need to dry treat? I will be the first to lecture about the merits of a good dry cow program, but in the last few years, selective dry cow therapy has become more popular. In other words, a cow that has a low somatic cell count and no history of mastitis may not need to be dry treated. Of course, that doesn't always hold true, especially for cows that are still milking heavily at the time of dry off.

Second, are there other changes we can make to lower the need for dry cow therapy? Maybe decide early on to code a chronic high cell count cow as a do not breed. Are there changes we can make to the dry cow facilities to lower infection risk?

Third, is there another dry cow treatment available that will work? Depending on the predominant mastitis bug on a farm a different treatment might work as well or better than one of the unavailable ones.

Finally, besides being illegal, it is probably also unwise to try a solution such as doubling up with a lactating mastitis treatment as an alternative. While it would certainly achieve a higher concentration of antibiotic in the udder, it would also result in unpredictable drug metabolism and potentially result in drug residue violations.

### Commodity Futures Prices

As of July 31, 2021

Corn	\$5.47/bu
Soybean Meal	\$352.60/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.48/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$122.08/cwt

### Practice News

- We wish the best of luck to our practice intern, Curtis Patton, who will begin veterinary school at Michigan State this month.
- This month, we also welcome a certified veterinary technician, Janae Speigle, to our practice. We look forward to integrating Janae into both the clinical and advanced reproductive technologies sectors of our practice.
- With summer winding down, county fairs will soon be here. If you haven't called yet to schedule vet checks for Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI, health charts), please do so as soon as possible. This will enable us to schedule visits in order to get everyone in. Vet inspections for swine are required to be completed within 14 days of the fair, however, you can call now to get them scheduled. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Upcoming Events

- The Fayette County Fair is currently underway. It will continue through Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Somerset County Fair and the Westmoreland County Fair will both take place August 20-28.
- The All-American Dairy Show will be held September 18-22.