

Topic of the Month

Practice News

Blackleg

I decided to revisit a classic disease this month because of a conversation I had the other day regarding cases of blackleg in neighboring practice areas.

Blackleg is a disease of ruminant youngstock caused by several species of *Clostridium* bacteria. The typical presentation is a heifer less than two years old who starts with a sudden onset lameness and is dead within a day. Often, more cases follow.

The bacteria form spores in the soil which allow them to remain inactive and persist for many years. When conditions are favorable, the spores hatch and cause infection after being eaten by an animal.

The circumstances around infection usually involve a soil disturbance such as excavating work or a barn wall collapse, or even something like feeding green chopped feed that has not undergone a proper fermentation.

As stated, the disease does not affect older animals because they have typically acquired some degree of immunity. We can help this process along by vaccinating youngstock. Available vaccines are very cheap and very effective, but when clinical signs appear, treatment is usually not successful. This is truly a disease where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of July 31, 2022

Corn	\$6.16/bu
Soybean Meal (May)	\$495.30/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$20.41/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$136.45/cwt

- **Please join us in welcoming our new associate-** WOVC is pleased to announce that we have hired an associate veterinarian to start in August. Dr. Meghan Sanders grew up working on a dairy and after earning her DVM from Ohio State, she did an internship and has been working in private practice. She is eager to join us in our work to improve the health and productivity of the dairies we serve.
- **Update on drop-shipping-** The company that handles our drop shipping and online pharmacy order has started to add a \$10 shipping charge to orders under \$200. Orders over \$200 will continue with free shipping. Please plan your ordering accordingly.
- **Fair season is upon us-** Please call the office to schedule health inspection appointments for fair animals. Health charts are normally good for 30 days; however, swine are required to be inspected in a shorter window prior to the fairs. Last minute requests for health inspections might not be able to be fulfilled. Please call early and get on the schedule now.

New Product Spotlight

Protivity™ is a newly released vaccine against *Mycoplasma bovis*. It is labeled to be used as a series of two injections given 21 days apart starting in dairy and beef cattle as young as 1 week old for protection against respiratory disease caused by this organism. This vaccine is likely to be most useful in operations that bring in cattle from different sources, including feedlots, calf ranches, and stocker operations.