

Topic of the Month

KLEBVax SRP

AgriLabs recently released the first ever licensed vaccine for *Klebsiella* mastitis. *Klebsiella* is a coliform bacteria which causes a severe mastitis, with a high percentage (60-80% in some studies) of infections resulting in culling or death in dairy cows.

One problem with creating coliform vaccines has been the antigens, or proteins, that the vaccines target. They often generate a poor and relatively short-lived immune response, and at the same time, they are very hard on cattle. Additionally, the proteins can be very specific to certain strains of bacteria, so the vaccine protection is incomplete.

SRP® technology targets specific proteins that are similar or identical across a genus, or family, of bacteria. This makes it possible to make a more effective vaccine.

In the study undertaken at Iowa State University to evaluate this product, results showed a 42% reduction in SCC, 71% reduced prevalence of *Klebsiella* mastitis, and 2 lbs. increased milk production/cow/day.

While these are all positive effects, the study rightly points out that the reduced prevalence of mastitis makes sense, but the increased production and the decreased SCC cannot be explained by the data that is currently available. In other words, more research is needed to explain these effects and they should not be anticipated from vaccination.

I will handle this topic in greater detail in my October column in *Farm, Field, and Garden*.

Practice News

- In case you missed it...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

- Barnum's Animal Crackers packaging has undergone a redesign after 116 years. Following discussions with PETA, Mondelez International, which makes the crackers, changed the box from a picture of circus animals in box cars to many of the same animals on the background of a grassland, where they are free to roam their natural habitat.
- About 9000 Northeast dairy farms received an average of \$4000 this week as a result of a settlement against Dairy Farmers of America. This was in response to a class action lawsuit filed in 2009 that accused DFA, along with its marketing arm and Dean Foods of collaborating to drive down the milk price.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of August 31, 2018

Corn	\$3.51/bu
Soybean Meal	\$303.70/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.52/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$106.80/cwt

Upcoming Events

- September 15-20 – All-American Dairy Show, Harrisburg.
- September 18 - Eastern Elite Sale, Harrisburg.