

Topic of the Month TB or Not TB? That Is the Question

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Summer is a busy time for fairs, shows, and sales, and today I was asked a question that I didn't expect. I was tuberculosis testing a few steers for a sale and my client asked if they needed to test their herd bull.

We never really talk about it but the answer is not really. Through careful planning and surveillance, Pennsylvania and many other states have successfully eliminated bovine tuberculosis from their borders. Several other states have implemented control measures but have been unable to eliminate it completely due to endemic infections in wildlife reservoirs or international borders.

So why don't we test the herd bull? We could but it's not necessary because the disease is not here. Why do we test other animals? It depends where the animal is headed, but each state has a department of agriculture that sets import rules for that state. Since a TB test is injected into the skin intradermally and then observed for a reaction at 72 +/- 6 hr, sales that are likely to send an animal to a state that requires TB testing establish their sale rules to mandate the test ahead of time. It would be a logistical nightmare to have an animal sold and then require them to be housed at the sale for 3 days waiting on a TB test.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of August 31, 2021

Corn	\$5.34/bu
Soybean Meal	\$346.40/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.75/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$118.95/cwt

Practice News

- Congratulations and thank you to those who helped to make our local fairs successful. We were pleased and proud to bid on Somerset's Dairy Basket and to see and bid on animals at the sale. Congratulations also to the kids who worked so hard on raising a fine group of animals.
- According to the Daily American, average prices were as follows:
Steers-\$2.13/pound Goats-\$6.50/pound
Lambs-\$9.62/pound Pigs-\$4.65/pound
Chickens-\$389 each.

Upcoming Events

- The All-American Dairy Show will be held September 18-22.
- World Dairy Expo will be September 28-October 2.
- The Center for Dairy Excellence will host a virtual webinar series called Transforming Your Team: Employee Communications & Management. Sessions are held every other Tuesday from September 28-November 23. Topics include communication and relationship building, coaching, developing new employees, employee handbooks, and working through conflict. Cost is \$150. Information is available through the CDE.
- The CDE will also host Dairy Appreciation Dinners on the evening of October 16th. Locations are in Mt. Joy, Williamsburg, and Washington. The dinner is free but registration is required.