



Ag Focus



Fall Crop Topics and Reminders

By: Mike Stanyard

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office is forecasting grain corn production in NY at 76.2 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 640 thousand acres, 3 percent above a year ago. **Yield is forecast at 119 bushels per acre**, down 14 bushels from last year. The national corn grain average is estimated at 123.4 bushels per acre. Soybean production in the Empire State is estimated at a record high 14.2 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year's 11.9 million bushels. Acreage for harvest increased 22 percent from 277 thousand last year to a record high 337 thousand acres. **Yields are expected to average 42.0 bushels per acre**, down 1 bushel from last year. The national soybean average is estimated at 36.1 bushels.



you plan on frost seeding clover, now is your only chance for weed control. Decreasing high weed populations in the fall helps your wheat crop get off to a better start next spring!

Continued on page 3

Fall Weed Control in Wheat

A lot of wheat is being planted in WNY right now. If time and weather permits, the fall is a great time to go after problem weeds that germinate right along with the winter wheat crop. This complex includes corn chamomile, shepherd's purse, chickweed, henbit, and purple dead nettle. Buctril should be applied when rosettes are at least 1 inch across. Harmony Extra is effective on a broader spectrum of weeds (wild garlic & chamomile). It pays to scout your wheat fields and determine the weed species present in your fields. If

Focus Points

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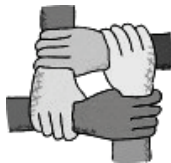
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Ag Focus
Cornell Cooperative Extension of

Genesee•Livingston•Monroe
Niagara•Ontario•Orleans•Seneca
Wayne•Wyoming•Yates

Ag Focus is published Monthly by the
NWN Team of CCE / PRO-DAIRY

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Mission Statement

The NWN Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team will provide lifelong education to the people of the agricultural community to assist them in achieving their goals. Through education programs & opportunities, the NWN Team seeks to build producers' capacities to:

- ◆ Enhance the profitability of their business
- ◆ Practice environmental stewardship
- ◆ Enhance employee & family well-being in a safe work environment
- ◆ Provide safe, healthful agricultural products
- ◆ Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between agricultural sector, neighbors & the general public.

Health of Overwintering Alfalfa

With the quantity of available hay forage short this year, everyone is looking to squeeze every last ton they can out of their alfalfa fields. Obviously the first priority is to feed the cows but let's also think about the health of these alfalfa fields going into the winter. Ideally, we want 42 days between the last two harvests. This allows for the plants to accumulate adequate carbohydrates in the root system to survive the winter. Research out of Quebec shows that alfalfa needs 500 degree days between the late summer harvest and a killing frost (25°F). The other option is to cut late enough that no regrowth occurs and no carbohydrates are being used by the plant. This can be before a killing frost if weather remains cold.

Grain Bin Storage Reminders


With the corn and soybean grain prices continuing to increase, proper storage is crucial when looking to hold and market grain in the future. Proper sanitation is key to managing insects, molds, and rodents. Clean up all remaining grain on the floor of the bin. Take a long-handled broom and remove any grain stuck to the walls, around the door and ladder rungs, supports, and in the fan opening. If there are a lot of fines remaining on the floor, clean up with a shop vacuum. Many fines accumulate in the space below the floor. Removing the floor and cleaning these out is not something you want to do every year! If you are continually having insect problems, seriously think about it. Clean up any spilled corn or soybeans around the bin, fan, and augers. This provides a refuge for insects that can eventually move into a clean bin.

We are very limited when it comes to empty bin insecticide treatments. TEMPO® SC ULTRA and STORCIDE™ II (see label for application restrictions) are both labeled. Spray the floor and walls inside the bin to the point of runoff. Spray some through the fan under the false floor of drying bins. Spray around the outside base of the bin up to 15 feet high and eliminate any weeds and old grain debris within 30 feet of the bin. Insects and rodents can survive on weed seeds too! Diatomaceous earth (Dryacide) is a non-insecticidal silica sand that can be applied as a dust in the bin and below the floor.


This fine dust dries out the outer exoskeleton of the insect causing it to dehydrate.

Don't forget about the other pieces of equipment in the grain harvesting and handling procedures. Remove all traces of old grain from combines, truck beds, grain carts, augers, grain pits, and grain driers. Even small amounts of moldy or insect-infested grain left in equipment can contaminate a bin of new grain.


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2011 Beef Quality Audit – What Does it Mean on the Farm?

By: Nancy Glazier

The National Beef Quality Assurance program conducts a survey every five years to measure progress of quality improvements in the beef industry. The work on the latest audit was done in 3 phases over many months. The work was funded by The Beef Checkoff program.

In the first phase, representatives from all aspects of the industry were interviewed over an 11-month period. These included feeders, packers, retailers, food-service operators, and allied industry and government employees. All were asked to define quality with the seven identified quality categories:

1. how and where the cattle were raised;
2. lean, fat and bone;
3. weight and size;
4. cattle genetics;
5. visual characteristics;
6. food safety;
7. eating satisfaction.

Each beef market sector was asked to estimate the willingness to pay for specified quality categories; and establish a best/worst scaling for identified quality attributes.

Carcass quality was assessed in the second phase. Over 18,000 carcasses at 8 plants were examined on the harvest floor. Over 9,000 chilled carcasses were measured for yield and quality grade at 28 processing plants. And, instrument grading information was collected from approximately 2.4 million carcasses from 17 plants owned by four processing companies.

The third phase was to conduct a written and online survey of beef producers. Over 3,750 surveys were collected from seedstock operators, commercial cow/calf producers, backgrounders, stocker/yearling producers, feedlot operators, dairy and other producers. This portion of the audit was conducted to assess the improvements made due to the Beef Quality Assurance program. This phase was completed in February 2012.



A Strategy workshop was held for forty-one people representing each sector of the beef industry in Denver April 10-12, 2012 to review results of the three NBQA research phases and discuss their implications for the U.S. beef industry. A strategy developed at that meeting provides the industry a blueprint for the next five years.

Conclusions

Phase I: Several common quality concerns and viewpoints among the industry sectors were revealed. Food safety and eating satisfaction (defined as product tenderness and flavor) were universally important to all sectors and, as might be expected, both were more important to packers, retailers and foodservice operators than to feeders. Concerns about issues such as animal welfare, how and what animals were fed, origin of the product, hormone and antibiotic use, etc. were very important to sectors that dealt directly with consumers (retailers and restaurants). Interestingly, interviewees listed food safety and eating satisfaction as both strengths and weaknesses. In addition, these factors ranked as the two most important quality attributes when the data were tabulated across all industry sectors.

Phase II: The first item noted was the increase in individual animal identification. Number of cattle individually identified climbed from 38.7 percent in 2005 to 50.6 percent in 2011. A small improvement in the percentage of carcasses USDA grading Prime and Choice occurred, from 55% to 61% from 2005 to 2011. And not surprisingly, carcass size has increased significantly over the past 5 years. A higher percentage of hides are predominantly black; all hides are generally cleaner (less mud and manure) which reduces the risk of contamination.

Phase III: Some areas of significant improvement were shown in this area. More than 78% of respondents indicated they use individual tags to assist with keeping track of animal health products. Nearly 90% of respondents work with a veterinarian when it comes to animal health products. Electric prod use is down; 98.4% stated it was not their primary driving tool. 87% have heard of Beef Quality Assurance and 78% have attending a meeting where BQA principles were addressed. Injection site lesions were not mentioned as a challenge on this audit, which indicates progress. 87% of respondents said their preferred injection site was in front of the shoulder.

Strategy Workshop Findings

Product integrity and eating satisfaction are crucial for consumer satisfaction and confidence. These two categories need to be the focus of all in the beef industry. One critical point that emerged was the need for transparent flow of information. Consumers want to know how cattle are raised through how the end product makes it to the store shelves. Producers need to reconnect with the consumer and continue to get the good story of beef out there!

Table 1: Quality Challenges, Ranked according to priority, 1991 to 2011, Source: NBQA

1991	1995
External Fat	Overall Uniformity
Seam Fat	Overall Palatability
Overall Palatability	Marbling
Tenderness	Tenderness
Overall Cutability	External & Seam Fat
Marbling	Cut Weights
2000	2005
Overall Uniformity	Traceability
Carcass Weights	Overall Uniformity
Tenderness	Instrument Grading
Marbling	Market Signals
Reduced Quality Due to Use of Implants	Segmentation
External Fat	Carcass Weights
2011	
Food Safety	
Eating Satisfaction	
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Lean, Fat, and Bone	
Weight and Size	
Cattle Genetics	



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(5) 2001 International 5600i, Cummins ISM, 305 HP, 135,000 Miles, 9LL, Haulmax Susp., 20,000# FA, 46,000# RA, Matching 9 Cy McNeilus Mixers, Stk. #3971-74 **\$32,900**



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6x6 20/46 Rears

(10) 2004 Oshkosh F2346, ISM Cummins 330 HP Diesel, 10-Spd., Haulmax Susp., Alum./Steel Wheels, 208" WB, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, Stk. #4040 **\$39,750**



460 HP 20K/46K Rears

2004 Mack Vision CX613, 460 HP Mack AC460 Diesel, 18-Spd., Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 216" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 14,300# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 391,918 Miles, Very Clean Heavy Spec, Stk. #4137 **\$32,900**



Heavy Spec Automatic

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20K Front 46K Rear

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22' Alum. Boxes

(Qty. 3) 2001 Mack CL713, 460 HP Mack E7, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, 22' Alum. Body, Camelback Susp., 4.42 Ratio, Alum. Wheels, Quad Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, (1) 2001, (2) 1999 All Same Specs, Stk. #3778/3782/3783 **\$42,900 EACH**



273K Miles 16' Alum.

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Precision Feeding – Best for Cows, CAFO and Your Wallet

By: Jerry Bertoldo

If cows did not have rumens, life would be much simpler for producers and their nutritionists. That large fermentation vat with billions of microbes of many different types is a complex system. These rumen “bugs” are capable of turning fibrous material that has little nutritional value to simple stomached animals into a significant source of energy. However, far from a universal feed digester, the rumen has many quirks related to optimal function. This is where a precision feed concept really makes sense.

Think about the rumen as a combustion chamber or engine. The microbes, protein and carbohydrates are like the flame, fuel and the oxygen in the mechanical system. The more precise the delivery of the components – the volume, rate, ratio and mixing – the better the quality and quantity of end products. Volatile fatty acids (VFA's) and microbial protein (microbe “bodies” themselves) are the high value result of microbial growth and digestion of intake feed. Ruminants do not use carbohydrates like we do. They have to be fermented down into VFA's first. Proteins can either bypass the rumen or be changed by the microbes. Since these hard—working bugs need nitrogen in the form of peptides, urea or ammonia, some protein breakdown in the rumen is necessary to provide these.

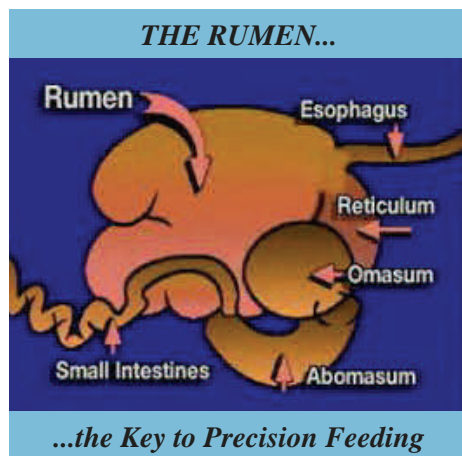
It so happens that microbial protein is quite similar to milk protein in amino acid composition. Microbial protein yield can provide up to 60% of the cow's daily protein requirement, a good portion of which goes to produce milk. The beauty of this source of protein is that you can feed the bugs pretty basic (read cheap) sources of carbohydrates and protein (or even urea) and have them make high quality and readily available protein. Remembering the combustion chamber analogy, you have to blend the feed sources wisely to offer the rumen microbes what they need, when they need it and in the right ratios.

The issue of the other 40%-plus of the protein requirement lies more in the bypass or Rumen Undegraded Protein (RUP) category that enters the cow's mouth. Heat treated soy products are an example of commodities high in bypass protein. Added lysine and methionine in the diet is helpful in meeting the requirements for these essential amino acids. Feed stuffs vary in the amount and ratio of these key components.

The other major microbial process, fiber digestion (carbohydrates in the bigger picture) has to be considered as well. Fiber digesters are slow workers and finicky about what pH they work in. Too much starch with too little effective fiber and too little available nitrogen leads to acidosis, a pH drop, poor digestive efficiency and less quality microbial protein produced. What the bugs don't make you have to buy.

This year's growing conditions have left us with forage shortages and high feed commodity prices. The flexibility your nutritionist has to economically balance a ration that maximizes cows' digestion and makes the milk and components you are used to is under pressure. The tight margins being faced drive us to think first of controlling costs. Best cost versus least cost decisions are less palatable, but can result in reasonable returns for dollars invested. This will be a year where adding pricey amino acid analogs or record high quality protein blends might surprise you by the results. The catch is that you have to know by analysis what you are feeding, it must be mixed and delivered accurately as formulated and the basics of cow comfort have to be met to allow the animal to utilize what she eats.

Keep in mind that a cow's body condition, health and productivity are like a bank account. You can draw on it for just so long before you need replenish what was borrowed. This year will be a draw down year, but does not have to be a break the bank one.



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New Agriculture Production Specialist Positions Created for Western New York

Cornell Cooperative Extension has secured funding from New York State that provides for regional extension programming to increase production and utilization of agricultural products. With the increased interest in dairy production and marketing of locally produced agricultural products, funding will be used to broaden the impact of five of the current agriculture program teams: Finger Lakes Grape Team, Lake Erie Grape Team, Lake Ontario Fruit Team, North West New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, and the Cornell Vegetable Team.

Three new areas of expertise and program effort have been addressed: Dairy Modernization, Dairy Food Processing, and Agriculture Economic Development focused on production and consumption of Local Foods. Western New York has been chosen as the focus area. Specialists will be working in very close consultation with particular Cornell faculty members. They will work with local and regional extension staff, and with grower groups. The expectation is that they will add value by bringing new information and new resources, particularly in areas where there is potential for industry growth and expansion.

For Example:

The emerging popularity of dairy-based products like yogurt and artisanal cheese represents an opportunity for farmers if they can meet production demands and if they can identify and connect with markets. Part of the expected outcome is an increase in demand for locally-produced New York foods. The ripple effects could include increases not only in individual farm profitability, but also growth in related sectors like agrotourism as wine and cheese pairings become more popular.

Who are the new WNY Agricultural Specialists?

Three positions have been filled as indicated below.

The Dairy Modernization position will be filled and announced soon.

Tristan Zuber, Dairy Processing Specialist:



Tristan Zuber

My love of the food industry began while growing up on a dairy farm in Western NY. When I was in middle school, I was allowed to tour the dairy plant where we shipped our milk and was completely amazed by the whole process. I attended Cornell University where I majored in Animal Science and Food Science and enjoyed learning more of the technical aspects of what happens to food once it leaves the farm. While at Cornell, I worked part time in the Milk Quality improvement program, discovering how quality starts from the beginning of the food supply chain. I also interned at Leprino Foods, developing a deeper understanding of how a food manufacturing plant is run. I started my career off at the U.S. Dairy Export Council in Arlington, VA, helping U.S. dairy manufacturers comply with international regulations when exporting products. I then joined Maryland-based TIC Gums, using my food science background to help formulate and improve all types of food products throughout the Northeast. I am extremely excited to get back to my roots and become an integral part of the growing Western NY Dairy Industry.

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Office: CCE Genesee Co.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Martin Wiedmann

Megan Fenton, Agriculture Economic Development Specialist:

As a daughter of a grape farmer in Yates County I have developed an inborn fondness for agriculture. Growing up in such a strong agrarian community I have a wealth of agricultural work experiences from working in vineyards to having my own small grain farm. These work experiences reinforced my formal



Megan Fenton

education at Cornell University. While at Cornell my horizons were broadened and I had the pleasure to work in agricultural research and explore international agriculture. I specialized in agronomy, tropical agriculture and participated in soil health research in New York and India. After graduating from Cornell University in 2009 with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Sciences, I had the pleasure to work as an agriculture educator. I then spent a year and a half in South India studying agronomy. I have worked on farms and in research both domestically and in a developing country. I have seen the trials and tribulations that agriculture can bring in many different settings and I welcome the challenge of bettering the agriculture community in an area that I am proud to call home.

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Judson Reid, Agriculture Economic Development Project Leader:

Understanding different cultures and their impact on agricultural practices has long been an interest of Judson Reid, leading to his International Agriculture major at Cornell University during his undergrad studies. Judson worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County for several years before completing his master's



Judson Reid

degree in plant protection in the field of Plant Pathology and joining the Cornell Vegetable Program team of specialists in 2005. Today, Judson focuses on cultural practices, small farm operations and season extension techniques. Judson's areas of interest include Greenhouse Production, Small Farming Operations, Eastern-Region Fresh Market Vegetables.



New York Farm Bureau Scholarships

High school seniors involved with agriculture who plan on continuing studies in this field should apply for the NYFarm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship sponsored by the NY Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. Awards are \$1,500 for first place, \$1,200 for second, and \$1,000 for third place. The first-place winner will be invited to present their essay at a NYFB Spring event.

Students applying must have a family Farm Bureau membership or a student Farm Bureau membership (membership application may be included with scholarship paperwork).

At the District level, a personal interview and essay presentation may be scheduled at the discretion of

the District Representative. The county winner will be the applicant scoring the highest for each county. The District winner will be the overall highest county winner. State competition is based upon the application and attachments.



The submission deadline is November 16, 2012. To nominate someone or request information/an application, call 1-800-342-4143 or visit www.nyfb.org.

Source: http://www.nyfb.org/resources/topic_detail.cfm?ID=230

Increased Milking Frequency during Early Lactation: Expected Changes in Profit for a 600 Cow Dairy Farm

By: John Hanchar and Jackson Wright

Increasing milking frequency to 4X during the first 21 days of lactation, and 2X thereafter is an effective management tool for increasing milk yield when compared to 2X milking. That is because frequent milking only needs to be implemented for the first three weeks of lactation and permanently increases the production capacity of the mammary gland.

Earlier work reported in *AgFocus* (Please see the June and April 2012 issues, and the January 2011 issue) included an analysis that determined the expected changes in profit associated with milking 4X from days 1 to 21 and 2X thereafter versus 2X milking for a 90 cow dairy farm. The purpose of the work described here is to answer the question, “On a 600 cow dairy, given the expected benefits and costs -- including expected changes in milk production, hired labor expense, purchased feed and crop expense, and other costs -- is the 4X, 2X milking frequency strategy an effective management tool for increasing profit when compared to 3X milking?”

Summary

- ◆ Partial budget analysis suggests that increased milking frequency, 4X for days 1 through 21 of the lactation, 2X thereafter, is attractive over a wide range of milk prices and marginal purchased feed and crop costs per additional pound of milk when compared to 3X for a dairy farm described as averaging 600 cows for the year.
- ◆ Results are sensitive to expected milk yield re-

sponse, milk price, and marginal purchased feed and crop costs.

- ◆ Due to the sensitivity of results to changes in key variables, a farm manager’s decision-making regarding frequent milking during early lactation will benefit from analyses that reflect conditions, and expectations specific to the farm.

Economic Analysis

One measure that producers use to evaluate possible changes in practices is the expected change in profit. Profit equals the total value of production minus the costs of inputs used in production. Expected change in profit equals the expected change in total value of production minus the expected change in costs. Analysts construct a partial budget to estimate the expected change in profit associated with a proposed change in the farm business, for example, frequent milking during early lactation.

Selected Assumptions

- ◆ Average number of cows for the year: 600 (Source: Cornell University Cooperative Extension’s Dairy Farm Business Summary (DFBS) Program, 2011, Various group averages for NYS, August 16, 2012)
- ◆ Proposed change: 4X milking in early lactation, that is days 1 through 21, 2X for the remainder
- ◆ Current: 3X milking
- ◆ Additional pounds of milk per cow per day, days 1 through 21: 9.57
- ◆ Expected change in pounds of milk per cow per day, days 22 through 270: -0.88
- ◆ Expected change in labor hours per day, 4X, 2X versus 3X: -6.6
- ◆ Number of animals milked 4X daily: 33
- ◆ Annual pounds of milk sold per cow per year, current: 23,371
- ◆ Milk receipts in \$ per cwt. & marginal purchased feed and crop costs (\$/additional pound of milk) are varied

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◆ Annual, before tax, marginal analysis

Results

All 25 expected milk price, expected marginal purchased feed and crop costs combinations yielded expected changes in annual profit greater than zero given the initial expected milk response (Table 1).

Table 1. Expected Change in Annual Profit by Gross Milk Sales per Cwt. by Purchased Feed and Crop Expense per Additional Pound of Milk -- 4X Days 1 through 21, 2X thereafter vs. 3X; Average Number of Cows is 600; Initial Expected Milk Response.

Gross Milk Sales (\$ per Cwt.)					
Purchased Feed/Crop Expense (\$ per additional lb. of Milk)	14	16	18	20	22
— dollars —					
0.06	55,009	54,822	54,636	54,449	54,263
0.08	55,195	55,009	54,822	54,636	54,449
0.10	55,382	55,195	55,009	54,822	54,636
0.12	55,568	55,382	55,195	55,009	54,822
0.14	55,755	55,568	55,382	55,195	55,009

If a farm expects to achieve only half of the yield response assumed initially, then the results in Table 2 apply. Nineteen of 25 expected milk price, marginal purchased feed and crop expense combinations yielded expected changes in annual profit greater than zero when milk yield response expectations were lowered.

Practical Application

Farms best suited to realize the benefits of frequent milking during early lactation are farms that maintain favorable cow throughput in the milking parlor. This ensures that fresh cows are not spending an excessive amount of time in the holding area, away from resources such as feed, water, and stalls. Moreover, it is beneficial if farms maintain a fresh group through at least 21 days in milk, so that milkers can easily bring fresh cows through the parlor at the beginning and end of milking, as milking intervals do not need to be evenly spaced throughout the day. The fresh

group should be located in close proximity to the milking parlor and maintained at an 80% stocking density so that every cow is provided with adequate access to resources, maximizing the response to frequent milking during early lactation.

In addition, when considering implementing frequent milking during early lactation it is important to remain up to date on milking machine maintenance. This is because excessive vacuum pressure or worn out inflations can cause pain during milking, inhibiting the release of beneficial hormones that are likely responsible for the increase in milk yield associated with frequent milking.

Finally, it's important to recognize that the increase in milk yield persists even after cessation of 4X milking. Often, when cows transition from 4X to 2X milking, production drops. This can be discouraging. However, despite this immediate drop in production, increasing milking frequency during early lactation permanently changes the production capacity of the mammary gland, providing a long term benefit.

Table 2. Expected Change in Annual Profit by Gross Milk Sales per Cwt. by Purchased Feed and Crop Expense per Additional Pound of Milk -- 4X Days 1 through 21, 2X thereafter vs. 2X; Average Number of Cows is 600; One Half of Initial Expected Milk Response.

Gross Milk Sales (\$ per Cwt.)					
Purchased Feed/Crop Expense (\$ per additional lb. of Milk)	14	16	18	20	22
— dollars —					
0.06	15,799	4,521	-6,757	-18,036	-29,314
0.08	27,077	15,799	4,521	-6,757	-18,036
0.10	38,356	27,077	15,799	4,521	-6,757
0.12	49,634	38,356	27,077	15,799	4,521
0.14	60,912	49,634	38,356	27,077	15,799

To learn more about this work, please contact John Hanchar or Jackson Wright

Agricultura

By: Libby Gaige

Calf Care for Variable Months

Fall has arrived, and with it a tricky time of year for calves. Though the weather is getting progressively colder, temperatures can fluctuate from one week to the next and especially from morning to night. On a 70°F day, it can be easy to forget the possibility that the temperature could dip low enough to make young calves suffer overnight.

For calves younger than three weeks of age, the thermoneutral temperature is about 60-80°F. This means that in that temperature range the heat produced by the calf's body is enough to make up for the heat that she loses. When the temperature gets below 60°F, she has to burn extra energy to make up for the heat that she's losing, so her maintenance cost goes up. The more energy used for maintenance, the less energy available for growth and immune function. And since calves are born with very little body fat, they don't have much extra energy to burn off before they actually start to starve!

So what can you do to keep calves healthy this fall? First and foremost, keep them warm and dry. Get newborn calves dry as quickly as possible, and provide them with adequate dry bedding. Putting calf jackets on the smallest calves can help prevent heat loss as well.

Don't forget cleanliness! When calves are too cold, they are more apt to get sick. Dip calves' navels with iodine, separate them from adult cows as quickly as possible after birth and keep cow manure away from them. The same dry bedding that keeps calves warm keeps them clean, too. A study from the University of Arkansas showed that calves spend about 45 minutes a day grooming themselves. So when the bedding that calves lie in is not sufficient, they end up licking the manure off themselves and ingesting bugs that could make them sick. Rinse milk pails and bottles with lukewarm water, and then wash them thoroughly with hot soapy water. Always provide plenty of clean, fresh grain and water.



*A calf keeps warm with a jacket on a chilly fall day.
Con su chaqueta, la becerra no siente el frío de un día otoñal.*

El Cuidado de los Becerros Durante Unos Meses Variables

Ya llegó el otoño, lo que es un tiempo difícil para los becerros. Aunque la temperatura está bajando progresivamente, las temperaturas pueden cambiar mucho de una semana a la otra y especialmente de la mañana a la noche. Durante un día de 70°F (21°C), se puede olvidar fácilmente de que la temperatura podría bajar bastante para que los becerros chiquitos sufran por la noche.

Para los becerros menos de tres semanas de edad, la zona termoneutral es 60-80°F (16°-27°C). Eso quiere decir que entre estas temperaturas, el calor producido por el cuerpo del becerro es bastante para compensar el calor que pierde. Cuando la temperatura baja a menos que 60°F (16°C), el becerro requiere energía extra para recuperar el calor que pierde, así que el costo de mantener su temperatura corporal sube. Al gastar más energía para mantenerse, hay menos energía para crecer y para protegerse de las enfermedades. Como los becerros nacen sin mucha grasa corporal, ¡no tienen mucha energía extra para gastar antes de empezar a sufrir de la malnutrición!

¿Qué puede hacer usted para que estén sanos sus becerros este otoño? Para empezar, deben estar siempre secos y nunca deben tener frío.

Hay que secar los becerros recién nacidos lo más pronto que sea posible y darlos bastante cama seca. Ponerlos chaquetas a los becerros más chiquitos también puede prevenir la pérdida de calor corporal.

¡No se les olviden la limpieza! Cuando los becerros tienen frío, es más posible que se enferman. Moje los ombligos de los becerros con yodo, sepárelos de las vacas adultas lo más pronto que sea posible después del parto y no dejen que tengan contacto con el estiércol de las vacas adultas. La misma cama que los mantiene secos los mantiene limpios también. Un estudio de la Universidad de Arkansas demuestra que los becerros pasan más o menos 45 minutos al día lamiéndose. Cuando los becerros se echan donde no

hay bastante cama, quitan el estiércol que los manchan con la lengua, ingieren muchas bacterias y se pueden enfermar. Enjuague las cubetas y botellas de leche con agua tibia, y después lávelas con agua caliente y jabón. Siempre deben tener bastante agua y grano fresco y limpio.

References:

Leadly, Sam. Calf Facts.

<<http://atticacows.com/orgMain.asp?orgid=19&storyTypeID=&sid=&>>

Panivivat, R., E. B. Kegley, J. A. Pennington, D. W. Kellogg and S. L. Krumpelman. 2004. Growth performance and health of dairy calves bedded with different types of materials. J. Dairy Sci. 87:3736-3745.

Calf Care – El Cuidado de los Becerros

Dip the calf's navel – Moje el ombligo del becerro

Separate the calf from the cow quickly - Quite el becerro de la vaca rápidamente

Put a jacket on the calf – Ponga una chaqueta al becerro

Put dry sawdust/straw in the pen - Ponga aserrín/paja seca al corral

First rinse the milk pails with lukewarm water – Primero, enjuague las cubetas de leche con agua tibia

Then wash the pails with hot water and soap – Después, lave las cubetas con agua caliente y jabón



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October, 2012

- 26 Sheep & Goat Symposium, Pre-Symposium Practical's, 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Cornell Sheep Farm, Harford, NY.
Additional information: www.sheep.cornell.edu and www.ansci.cornell.edu/goats
- 27 Sheep & Goat Symposium, 7:45 a.m.—5:30 p.m., Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca

November, 2012

- 1 Feed Dealer's Meeting, 6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m., CCE-Ontario Co. office, 480 N. Main St., Canandaigua, NY.
Pre-Registration is Requested. Cost: \$30 per person/location, \$25 ea. Additional person from same farm/business. Contact: Cathy Wallace: 585.343.3040 x138 or cfw6@cornell.edu
- 2 Feed Dealer's Meeting, 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Hidden Valley Lodge, 2416 Royce Rd., Varysburg, NY. *Pre-Registration is Requested.* Cost: \$30 per person/location, \$25 ea. Additional person from same farm/business. Contact: Cathy Wallace: 585.343.3040 x138 or cfw6@cornell.edu

December, 2012

- 12 Field Crop Dealer Meeting, 1:00—5:00 p.m., Genesee Grande, Syracuse. Cost: \$15, credits pending. Contact: jmarvin@rochester.rr.com



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The Use and Evaluation of DHIA Records: November 6, 8, 13 & 15 (see page 7)

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QuickBooks for Dairies: January 7—11, 2013

Calf Management: February 5, 7, 12, 14 & 16, 2013

Nutrient Management: March 5, 7, 12, 14 & 16, 2013

For more information or to register for these courses please contact Wyoming Co. Dairy Institute:
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