

JUNE 2018

At the end of April we were hoping/praying for good weather to get things dried up and let the planting progress. By the end of May the seeding was mostly completed – a testament to the tenacity of our farmers and the capacity of our tillage and seeding equipment. What a difference a month makes! Across the US, the corn and soybeans are doing great – despite the later planting, emergence is ahead of what it would normally be at this time of year and the condition of the crop is the best it has been since 1994.

The uncertainty of NAFTA negotiations and export contracts from the US to Far East destinations have had a dampening effect on the hog market. With Mexico being the largest export market for US pork, the failing NAFTA agreement and the idiotic imposition of huge tariffs on Mexican and Canadian steel and aluminum imports are holding down the potential of a seasonal run up in the pork price. Last year the hog price was \$25 per C/KG higher. Let's hope some common sense gets expended south of the border and these markets get back to normal.

Jeff Buchanan

While volatility was the main theme with respect to commodities in April, May saw relative stability. Corn was down \$1, soymeal was down \$3 and while the CDN dollar did experience some ups and downs, it ended flat on the month. Soft red wheat was the exception increasing in value by \$11/mt. While the core ag commodities moved little, markets in North America were anything but stable. The imposition of tariffs on both steel and aluminum by the Trump government has threatened the strong trade ties between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

Looking forward, it's hoped that we don't experience a full-blown trade war. There are very few winners when mutually beneficial trade is abandoned. If we do see an escalation in protectionism, we have to hope that Agriculture doesn't get caught up in the mess.

The Dairy Team

Heat Stress

We are going to spend some time discussing heat stress: when heat stress starts, signs of heat stress and give some suggestions on how to deal with it.

Heat stress always ends up with decreased milk production, stressed reproduction, and depressed immune function in both lactating and dry cows. Heat stress starts when the temperature- humidity index (THI) exceeds 68. An example would be 75 degrees F with 45% humidity or 80 degrees F with no humidity. The one thing to remember is that depressed conception rates and early embryo death both occur even before the decline in milk production is observed. You will notice a definite difference in cow's behaviour when they are experiencing signs of heat stress. They will spend more time standing than laying down. The animal does this in an attempt to get more body surface area available to dissipate heat and decrease core body temperature. Other signs of heat stress would be increased respiratory rates, sweating and excessive drooling, reduced feed intake and increased water consumption.

As milk producers, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to help keep our animals as cool as possible. Keep fans on at all times even during evening and night times. Make sure that there is an abundant supply of clean fresh water. Sprinkler systems can also be installed in some barns.

On another note, let us know when you are harvesting forages so we can get them sampled and keep the ration balanced for you.

SAVE THE DATE

Molesworth Calf Workshop “ *The First 60 days* “

When: Wednesday, July 18, 11:00 am-2:30 pm

Where: Brendan Diefenbacher, 8669 Concession 3, Listowel

Speakers: Dr. Tom Gutteridge, Dr. Kristen Edwards, Brittany Todd.

Topics: colostrum testing, sanitation, scours

Calves are often referred to as the most essential part of the whole dairy operation and the foundation of a successful farm. Join us for a very informative workshop and have lunch on us!!

Jan Morris Facts about Tick Bites and Lyme Disease

- Blacklegged ticks (formerly known as deer ticks) that can transmit Lyme Disease are in Ontario and other parts of Canada in ever-increasing numbers.
- They are commonly found in woodlands, tall grasses and bushes, and thrive in wet environments.
- Outdoor workers, like farmers, who may work in wooded, bushy areas or in tall grasses are at risk.
- Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans who are bitten by this species of tick. Around 20 per cent of blacklegged ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.
- There were 1,479 cases across Canada in 2017, something the Public Health Agency of Canada calls a “significant national increase” of nearly 50 per cent since the year before.
- Lyme Disease is not spread from person to person or by animals. However, animals may carry the infected ticks.
- In order to transmit the disease, a tick must be attached to feed for at least 24 hours. Early symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle and joint pains, fatigue, swollen glands and an expanding skin rash. Left untreated, it can cause facial paralysis and heart and neurological disorders.
- If you experience symptoms, seek medical attention and be sure to tell the health care provider if you have been in areas where you may have been exposed to blacklegged ticks.
- Most cases of Lyme Disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics.

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Labour factsheet and GlobalNews.ca

Pierre Lemieux Last Call for your Favourite Recipes!

The MFS Customer Service team is looking for your “Foolproof Family Favourite Recipes” to include in a limited-edition cookbook, slated for printing and distribution in time for Christmas 2018. Please forward your best dessert, appetizer, meat dish, casserole, etc. recipes no later than June 22 if you would like them to be included in this culinary work of art. Please send them c/o Jill either by email (jhaelzle@mfsltd.ca) or post (Molesworth Farm Supply, 44743 Perth Line 86, Listowel, ON N4W 3G6).

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Don't forget the **Ontario Pork Congress** being held in Stratford on Wednesday June 20th and Thursday June 21st. This is the 45th year of the Pork Congress – it is always a great place to meet fellow producers as well as suppliers. MFS is proud to be a sponsor for the 40th time.

We need your assistance and your patience this coming July 1st weekend (see ‘blue’ attachment). We are upgrading our main elevator leg out of our side one mixer to handle higher capacity. If you could work with the Customer Service people in planning your feed inventories around this, we would be very appreciative. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ron

“Like what you do. If you don't like it, do something else.” - Paul Harvey