

NOVEMBER 2018

It is a tough fall to get field work done this year. The calendar moves on and the crop is far from being in the bin and the toxins keep getting worse in the corn each day. It will be a challenging and discouraging year for both corn producers and for those of us in the feed industry as we cope with trying to make good feed that our livestock won't reject while at the same time utilizing as much local corn from our farmer suppliers as we do every year. We do hope that those of you that depend on us for a market for your corn each year, will be patient with us as we struggle to keep our customers and suppliers happy.

Hog markets are volatile these days. Cash hogs have been easing downwards over the past 3 weeks. The U.S. weekly kills are reaching upwards of a record 2.6 million head slaughtered at the same time as the United States' largest pork customer (China) has applied a retaliatory tariff on all pork products imported from the USA. It is a surprise that the price hasn't tanked, given all the bad news. The U.S. - produced pork is finding markets (including significantly higher amounts into Ontario) which is a good thing. We'll cross our fingers that China and the USA can solve their differences on all of these tariffs soon and get agricultural products flowing into the vast Chinese population once again.

Molesworth Farm Supply is once again asking for your help on behalf of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB). CFB does an excellent job of distributing collected donations (grain and/or cash) to help people in need around the globe. Please contact Bernadette at our office if you are able to contribute. Thank you!

Jeff Buchanan

Commodities

In last October's newsletter, I commented on how we were seeing lighter test weight Corn, but significantly lower Vomitoxin levels. I can certainly not say that this year. While we are seeing heavier Corn overall, Vomitoxin has reared its' ugly head again and this time with a vengeance. We are hearing horror stories of VOM levels so high (ie 60 ppm+) in some areas, producers cannot find buyers. How this is going to pan out, I do not know. I do know that in general, Corn north of the mill has significantly lower VOM levels than south of us. However, there are pockets everywhere that defy this generalization. As a result of the VOM issue, we never did see the normal price drop in Corn at harvest. So, during October, Corn price went up by \$2/mt. Soymeal was down \$4/mt and Wheat was up \$8/mt

Looking forward, the hope is that things dry up and that this year's Harvest is able to be completed.

The Dairy Team

With corn harvest well under way and hopefully finished in some areas, the talk of the town seems to be toxins.

Mycotoxins- This year is showing results of higher Vomitoxin/Deoxynivalenol (DON) levels in corn than last year across SW Ontario. OMAFRA's DON survey of grain corn revealed that 40% of samples had DON levels above 2ppm, compared to only 14% above 2ppm in 2017. (2ppm is often recognized as the upper limit for DON in dairy cattle). DON levels above 2ppm can have serious effects on ruminants particularly resulting in reduced feed intake, increased intestinal disorders, poor reproduction, decreased feed efficiency and ultimately decreasing performance.

Continued page 2

It is important to remember that Mycotoxins rarely occur in isolation. Although it is common to test for DON, it is likely there are numerous other toxins also present at varying levels. This exacerbates the situation because mycotoxins have synergistic negative effects. Therefore, if there is low risk of DON it does not mean that the total mycotoxin risk is also low. It depends on the risk from the total diet including all of the toxins present. DON is produced from Fusarium molds which also produce several other mycotoxins including T-2/HT-2, Fumonisin, Zearalenone and fusaric acid, so it is important to measure these mycotoxins as well.

Colin MacNeil, Territory Sales Representative for Alltech Canada Inc.

Regular testing, products and toxin binders are available from Molesworth Farm Supply in an effort to minimize these negative impacts on your animals. Feel free to talk to your feed salesperson about these ways to reduce the risks of toxins.

Jan Morris Prevent the Spread of the Flu

The flu affects most people at some point in their lives. It can be deadly to individuals with a weakened immune system and those older than 65 years of age. Flu season usually begins in October and can last until early May. Here are a few steps we can all take to help prevent the spread of this disease.

- Get vaccinated. This is the single best way to prevent getting the flu.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay away from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- If possible, stay home from work or school when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often to protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially when someone is ill.
- Get plenty of sleep; be physically active; manage your stress; drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

Source: www.cdc.gov

Pierre Lemieux Farm Feed Bin Alert!

I have been noticing a trend in many older, galvanized feed bins. Portions of the vent pipe that follow the roof line in many units that are 15 years or older are starting to fail, or are failing miserably. Corrosion can be significant on many of those pipes, making the feed prone to rain and snow, as well as contamination by bird droppings and nesting material. In a number of cases pieces have rusted away and are missing completely.

This can go unnoticed given that it isn't always visible from the ground. Take the time to investigate and make certain that your feed is not being compromised by leaks of any kind. Depending on where the breaks occur, you may be able to replace a section of the pipe, or at least make things bird-proof with some hardware cloth.

Take care when you climb!

%% %% %

Have a safe, productive harvest- we'll pray for better weather. Thanks for your business and for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Ron

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."

David Bly