

MARCH 2019

According to the Weather Network, daily High and Low temperatures are supposed to climb to be in the 'normal' range in about one week. Some of us embrace winter and the opportunities it brings, but this persistent cold is wearing down all of us.

Not much new and exciting on the open commodity market front, unless you don't have crop to sell – a decrease in feed costs is about the only welcome news this past month. Not sure in all of my years here, that red meat producers have had so many major market impact events at play, and few, if any of these events do these producers have significant control over. Tariffs, trade agreements, China, North Korea, African Swine Fever, PED, waning confidence in the Canadian economy, meatless meat, waning political confidence in both Canada and the US, etc. etc. etc. are all now part of our everyday lives. However, the calendar suggests that Spring is still coming – time to celebrate!

Jeff Buchanan

Commodities

Commodity markets were certainly calmer this February than they were last February. Last year, South America was experiencing very dry conditions. As a result, Soymeal jumped a whopping \$90/mt last February. This February, Soymeal was down \$4/mt over the course of the month. While weather conditions in South America are not perfect, there is less threat of major crop damage this year. Likewise, Corn was down \$4/mt and Wheat was down \$20/mt. The thought is that Wheat is in an oversold position, but it is showing no signs it wants to go back up. As we enter March, market focus will start to shift from South American weather to forecasts for the U.S. Ag. Belts.

Also of significance is the ongoing talks between China and the U.S. In a show of good faith, China has pledged to take more U.S. Commodities, but pledges and practices do not always emulate each other and actual purchasing has been sporadic at best. It is always important to look at market fundamentals, but always remember that we are only a 'tweet' away from a significant market reaction.

THE DAIRY TEAM

It is important in any dairy operation to establish specific goals for your calves at certain points in time; for example, at weaning and at breeding. Feeding the right nutrition at the right time can help maximize frame and weight gain. Your main focus on feeding calves should be to maximize weight gain and frame growth. It is well documented that a healthy calf should at least double their birthweight before weaning.

Calves have the best feed efficiency rate during the pre-weaned stage. It is important to feed the proper balance of protein and fat. Milk and milk replacers and calf starter are the two most important factors affecting Average Daily Gain (ADG) during pre-weaning.

Solid Feed- The purpose of calf starter is to transition the calf from the milk feeding stage to the dry feeding stage. Calf starter is very important for healthy rumen development, good body growth and successful weaning. A good calf starter should be palatable, meet nutritional requirements, have quality ingredients and be consistent.

Jan Morris **Knowing What to do in an Emergency**

No one wants to think of something bad happening, but when it does, you need to be prepared for it. There are many different kinds of emergency situations that can occur including medical emergencies, caught-in or between equipment, electrical-related incidents, fires and weather-related disasters. Here are a few things to consider when discussing emergency response with family members or workers.

- Before helping a victim, make sure it is safe for you to do so. An event such as a failed confined space rescue resulting in multiple fatalities is an example of making a bad situation worse by trying to help.
- Don't overreact – you can make matters worse.
- Have plans in place to deal with different types of weather emergencies such as a tornado or a flood.
- Make sure everyone knows where your emergency meeting sites are and your complete address. If someone needs to call 911, one of the first questions the operator will ask is "Where are you located?"
- Train everyone in the location of emergency equipment and how to use it. Make sure you are familiar with emergency shutoff switches on equipment or machinery.
- Know the signs and symptoms of common medical emergencies. Take a first aid course and have family members and workers trained as well. Knowing what to look for can make the difference in whether someone gets the medical attention they need or not.

Knowing what to do in an emergency is just as important as knowing how to prevent them in the first place. Keeping calm and knowing how to respond to an emergency may save a life some day.

Source: www.safetytalkideas.com

@ @ @ @ @

As always, thank you for your business. Thanks as well to all of our MFS drivers, who have had many a challenging day this winter.

Don't be too impatient when the warm weather finally arrives – be safe.

Sincerely,

Mark

"The only way to keep your health is eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not!"

Mark Twain