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10 MUST-DOs FOR TRANSITION COWS

The transition period will make or break a lactation and possibly the entire productive life of a dairy cow. Do it right, and cows are primed for healthy, productive lactations. Do it wrong, and cows can become early cull candidates. Shift your mindset from the transition cow as a disease opportunity to the transition cow as a production and reproduction opportunity. “Begin with the end in mind” says Tom Overton, a dairy management specialist with Cornell University. The goals should be to optimize milk production, maintain nor minimize the loss of body condition score, metabolic disease and immunocompetence, control days to first ovulation and birth healthy calves. “Our high performing dairies do all of these” Overton says. To achieve these goals, Overton has a top 10 list of feeding and management strategies:

1. Manage macromineral/DCAD of dry cows, especially in the last two to three weeks before calving. Feed low potassium and sodium forages, along with anionic supplementation. The amount of anionic supplement will depend on the calculated DCAD content of the ration. Also supplement with magnesium and calcium as needed.
2. Control energy intake in both far-off and close-up diets. Too little can be as bad as too much.
3. Supply enough metabolizable protein before calving. The emphasis should be on bypass protein sources and amino acids.
4. Get the feeding management right—every day. Minimize sorting. The longest straw or hay particles should be less than 1.5”. The dry matter content of the TMR should be 56% to 48%. Add water if necessary.
5. Provide clean, comfortable housing and fresh water. Large, well-groomed stalls or clean, dry bedded packs are essential to cow comfort.
6. Manage social interactions and group hierarchy. Stocking densities of less than 100% are recommended with plenty of bunk space. Also, avoid commingling first-calf heifers with older cows, and minimize group changes as much as possible.
7. Manage heat stress. Heat stress during the dry period can result in decreased birth weight of calves, greater incidence of passive immunity transfer failure, poorer immune function of both dam and calf, poorer feed efficiency and decreased milk production during first lactation.
8. Offer high quality forage and fermentable diets to fresh cows. High levels of indigestible forage neutral detergent fiber limits how much a cow can eat, reducing rate of passage and feed intake.
9. Strategically use feed additives and specific nutrients. Choline helps the liver export fat and improve performance. Amino acids improve performance and immunity. Chromium propionate helps energy metabolism, immune function, dry matter intake and performance. Additives such as monensin can improve energy metabolism and postpartum dry matter intake. Yeast products can improve rumen function, dry matter intake and performance.
10. Implement cow and herd level monitoring programs. Cow-level monitoring is most beneficial for making diagnosis and treatment decisions for individual animals. Weekly herd-level monitoring, such as urine pH or ketone testing, helps indicate when changes to feed or management might be necessary.

CLOSED

We will be closed
MONDAY AUGUST 7
for the Civic Holiday
and SEPTEMBER 4, for
Labour Day. Please
order your feed accordingly.

FUTURES MARKET

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AUGUST	113.17
OCTOBER	112.77
DECEMBER	113.62

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AUGUST	81.10
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ORDER DESK

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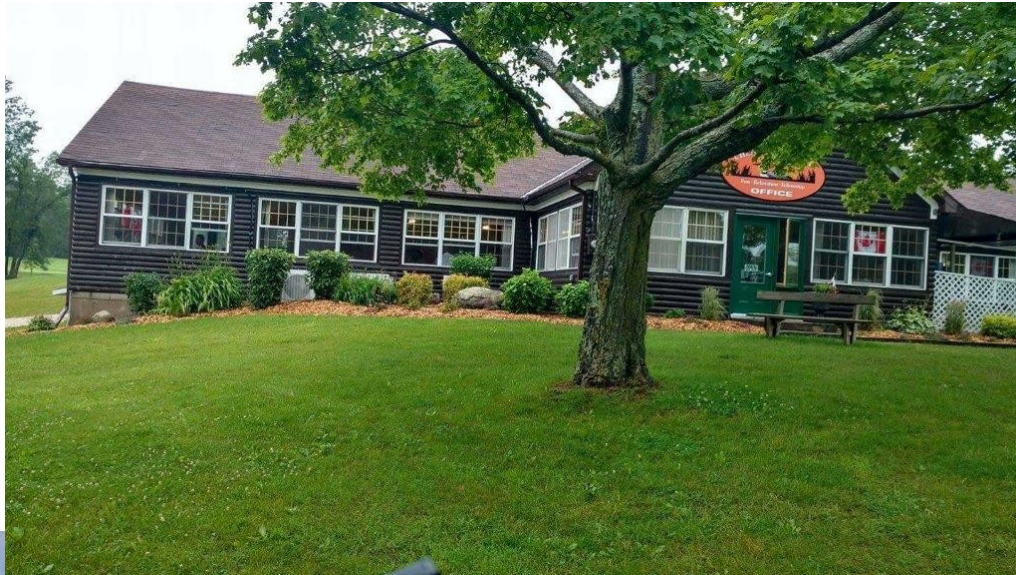
Email: orders@wsfeeds.ca

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REMINDER OF OUR CHICK DAY PROMOTION -SALE ENDS
SEPTEMBER 30TH!

Fire Destroys Building at Chesley Lake Camp

Chesley Lake Camp, is a popular summer destination for many. On Canada Day a fire broke out on the property's restaurant and office. The entire structure was lost in the fire as well as 68 years of history. Thankfully no one was injured. In the past number of weeks they have been putting the pieces back together and now have an office, bathrooms, a dining tent, a kitchen, a new tuck shop and ice cream parlour. We are proud to have provided the transportation of table and chairs delivered by our staff member, Les Rae from the Whites Road Pentecostal Church in Harriston.



CHESLEY LAKE CAMP

