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Conestogo, Mount Forest, Tavistock

JUNE—JULY 2016

We have entered into a partnership with Farmers Plus in Elmira located at 21 Church St. W. As of July 4, 2016 this will be our bag pick-up depot for the Elmira and surrounding area.

All of our W-S Feeds products will be available there as well as additional crop inputs and farming products that Farmers Plus carries.

We are excited about this opportunity and welcome you to drop into the Elmira location and meet the great staff there.

“STRESS LESS” WITH GOOD STOCKMANSHIP

Moving and handling 1400 pound animals is not a job for everyone—it is however, one that dairy farmers do every day. Large dairy cattle are moved to and from the parlour several times each day. Also, when sows weighing 300 to 400 pounds are placed in group pens, human caretakers are potentially at risk for injuries. Unfortunately, livestock-related injuries account for a high rate of lost work days. People are a major source of anxiety for the cow or the pig. Stressed cattle and pigs are more difficult to handle and this puts workers at an increased risk of accidents. Much of animal's anxiety comes from how they are handled. Studies have shown cows handled by an aversive handler had reduced milk efficiency compared to cows with gentle handlers. Animals quickly learn to recognize individuals and can distinguish between those who treat them gently and those who do not.

Knowing livestock behavior is the key to good stockmanship

Low-stress animal handling or stockmanship focuses on the handling interactions (i.e. communication) between humans and cows and includes low-stress handling techniques. Stockmanship takes advantage of the basic, natural movements of livestock and is a method for humans to interact with these animals in a way that they understand. Knowing livestock behavior is the key to good stockmanship. For example, a calm and relaxed cow at milking means minimal defecation and kicking in the milking parlor, and improved milk let-down. Farmers using low stress animal handling methods are less likely to be injured and face fewer challenges moving cattle. (University of Minnesota)

HEAT STRESS

The heat and humidity of summer have arrived! And with it the potential of heat stress for livestock. Are you prepared? Reviewing ration and management programs can help livestock avoid many of the problems associated with rising temperatures and humidity. We have several products to help meet your herd's special needs during times of heat stress. Additionally, it is important to review your farm's management program to ensure livestock are equipped to cope with the heat. Be sure to consider every group on your farm from calves and heifers, to the lactating and dry cow groups.

PORK CONGRESS

DROP BY OUR BOOTH AT THE PORK CONGRESS ON JUNE 22 & 23, 2016 IN STRATFORD. THE SHOW RUNS FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON JUNE 22 AND 10 AM TO 4 PM ON JUNE 23.

FUTURES MARKET

BEEF

JUNE	119.70
AUGUST	116.42
OCTOBER	115.82

PORK

JUNE	79.85
AUGUST	79.75
OCTOBER	68.43

ORDER DESK

Ways to place your order:

Toll-free: 1.800.265.2203

Fax: 519.655.3505

Email: orders@wsfeeds.ca

Online: www.wsfeeds.ca

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FORAGE HARVEST

Each spring, there's usually a very long list of things producers need to complete on a timely basis. A few years ago, several very successful farmers were asked what made the difference between doing very well compared to just getting by, and the answer was pretty uniform across the group. If a producer pays attention to the details for what they're doing and does things on a timely basis, they will be more successful. That's great advice! Having priorities from day to day will help farmer be more successful as they go through their lists. The focus of this article is to provide some key management tips for forage producers, based on scientific research, to help them during the growing season.

- Take first cutting by plant height. Producers should measure the height at the top of the plant stem, not the tip of the leaflet. Consider harvesting at 28-29 inches in height to get the best compromise between yield and quality of the crop. Research findings show a daily change of -.025 percent in crude protein, +0.36 % in acid detergent fiber and +0.43% in neutral detergent fiber as the alfalfa matures.
- Use the widest swath possible (more than 70% of cut area) when cutting for faster drying and higher forage quality. The wide swath provides the best opportunity for alfalfa plants to lose the first 15% water as fast as possible. Conditioning is necessary for hay but not haylage. Alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mixtures for hay should be conditioned with a roller conditioner, not a flail conditioner.
- Reduce the amount of leaf loss in alfalfa. Retaining the most leaves possible has been a long standing recommendation by forage experts. Alfalfa leaves are 15-20 percent neutral detergent fiber whereas the stems are 55-75% neutral detergent fiber. Making sure machines are adjusted correctly and the operating speed have the largest effect on reducing leaf loss at harvest.
- Bale at the proper moisture levels to prevent mold growth and heating in storage. For square bales, the general recommendations are: small square 19% moisture or less, medium square bales (3 feet X 3 feet) less than 16%, and for large square bales (4 feet X 4 feet) less than 14% moisture. For round bales, the general recommendations are: small rounds (4 feet wide X 5 feet high) less than 18% moisture, medium rounds (5 feet wide X 5 feet high) less than 16% moisture, and large (5 feet wide x 6 feet high) less than 15% moisture.
- Remove hay/haylage from the field as rapidly as possible to minimize wheel traffic damage. Research shows there is a 6% per day reduction in yield of the next cutting for every day the field is driven over after cutting. Wheel tracks will damage the crown buds that produce the next cutting's growth. Producers that tend to leave bales in the field for several days following baling will sacrifice yield unless they pick up bales immediately. (Dan Undersander)

HOG OUTLOOK

The peak in hog prices may come early this year. Hog prices usually peak in early summer. Hog slaughter has been running under the level implied by the March Hogs & Pigs report. If those smaller-than-expected marketings turn out to be delayed marketings, then summer hog slaughter may be heavier than expected and prices lower than hoped for. USDA says there were 635 million pounds of pork in cold storage at the end of April. That is 3.5% more than the month before, but 9.4% less than a year ago. April was the third consecutive month with stocks of frozen pork below the year-ago level. The national negotiated barrow and gilt carcass price averaged \$72.77/cwt on Thursday, down \$2.27 from a week earlier and down \$6.77 from a year ago. The national negotiated barrow and gilt price averaged \$71.54/cwt on May 27, 2016, down \$2.76 from a week earlier and down \$5.94 from a year ago.

The top hog price today at Peoria was \$47/cwt, unchanged from May 20, 2016. The top price for interior Missouri live hogs was \$51.00/cwt, down 75 cents from May 20, 2016. May 27, 2016 pork cutout value was \$82.65/cwt FOB the slaughter plants. That is down 46 cents from the week before and down \$3.43 from a year ago.

The week's hog slaughter was 2.181 million head, up 3.2% from the previous week and up 17.1% from the same week last year which was light because it included the Memorial Day holiday. The average slaughter weight of barrows and gilts in Iowa-Minnesota May 16-20 was 282.9 pounds, down 0.4 pounds from the week before, up 2.5 pounds from the same week last year, and the ninth consecutive week heavier than a year ago. The June lean hog futures contract ended the week at \$80.525/cwt, up 67.5 cents from the preceding Friday. Today, July hogs settled at \$81.075/cwt, up 82.5 cents from last Friday. The August hog contract settled at \$80.725 (Ron Plain).