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OBSERVING COWS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

How much time do you spend watching your cows? Observing your cows on a regular basis is important. Consider these things:

- **Two hours before milking, are less than 20% standing in stalls?** *This is a reflection of cow comfort. A comfortable cow will spend at least 12 hours a day resting (lying down). The longer they stand the greater chance of developing lameness problems. Comfort improves production!*

- **When walking through the milking herd, are 50 to 70% of the cows chewing their cuds?** *Healthy cows chew their cud. This acts as a buffer to feeds and can help increase dry matter intake, helping to prevent lameness, DAs, etc.*

- **Just before feeding, take a few minutes to look in the feedbunk and see if it still contains quality feed - not just cobs or long-stemmed fiber. When you feed, are there cows waiting for their turn to get to the feedbunk for something to eat?** *It is important to keep quality feed in front of cows all the time. More feed intake often means more milk.*

- **Are water troughs clean, easily accessible after milking, and do they provide an adequate supply of water for all cows to drink?** *Fresh, clean water encourages intakes and aids feed digestion. Make sure there are sufficient water tanks for all your cows!*

YOUNG & COLD

Cold weather can play havoc on young stock, impacting their growth and development, as well as health – and possibly delaying maturity beyond first calving at 24 months of age. It is important to consider all aspects of heifer care and management, including housing, ventilation, hygiene, and feeding a quality, energy-balanced milk replacer and starter feed – products that can help ensure they receive adequate energy and nutrients to meet the needs of growth, development and bodily warmth.

During fall and winter weather, it is necessary to feed more energy to calves, in order to meet higher energy needs for maintenance. Once the temperature drops below 59°F/15°C, the calf has to increase its metabolism in order to maintain its body temperature. A calf housed at a temperature of 25°F/-4°C requires about 30% more energy for maintenance than one housed at 50°F/10°C. In extremely cold weather (<0°F/-18°C), sick calves are at great risk due to potentially reduced feed and energy intake, coupled with limited body reserves of energy.

To maximize the growth of calves, it is important to supplement nutrient intake during cold weather, thereby increasing the animal's ability to generate and maintain its body heat. To ensure your calves are getting enough milk replacer and starter feed on cold, damp days, and to review your entire calf program, call your sales representative. Together we can make a difference. Keep calves warm this fall and winter, and appreciate the difference in their growth and development.

CHECK YOUR CALEDAR

**WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING ON MONDAY
October 12, 2015.**

**PLEASE ORDER YOUR FEED IN
ADVANCE.**

FUTURES MARKET

BEEF

OCTOBER	129.17
DECEMBER	134.15
FEBRUARY	135.12

PORK

OCTOBER	71.88
DECEMBER	65.78
FEBRUARY	68.95

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

10 REASONS TO DEWORM YOUR HERD

An important task on any dairy farm is maintaining herd health. That's why parasite control should rank high on your priority list. Here are 10 ways a parasite control strategy can help lead to a healthier future for your herd. Fall is an ideal time to pursue this opportunity:

- **It starts with immunity.** It's hard to recognize the immune status of cattle just by sight, but better immunity means healthier animals.
- **Appetite.** Imagine a stomach full of worms... GONE! What a relief! Happy, hungry cattle eat more freely.
- **Feed efficiency.** Fewer worms in the lining of the abomasum and intestine mean that these organs ultimately can function better.
- **Improve weight gain.** Weight gain dictates a lot of the normal immune, metabolic and reproductive processes in the bovine body.
- **Earlier breeding.** According to Cornell University, the benchmark age to reach breeding weight should be younger than 15 months. If not, you suffer the double penalty of extra rearing costs and decreased lifetime production.
- **Milk early.** The sooner a heifer has her first calf, the sooner she is no longer a 'feed bill liability'.
- **More milk.** It is estimated that she will give 1,775 lbs. *more* milk on her first lactation if she weighs more than 1,250 lbs. after her first calving.
- **Fewer culls resulting from late calvers.** This will help save on culling costs/replacement expenses. If a first-calf heifer calves late, she becomes an annual target to cull, as she will always have difficulty getting ahead of the curve.
- **Weight stabilization.** It takes a lot of energy and resources in the form of feed and animal tissue to produce the milk quantities we demand of today's dairy herds. Cattle must stabilize their weight to support efforts to cycle and settle a pregnancy.
- **Maximize profits.** Improve breeding efficiency in the herd by decreasing feed input costs and improving weight gains (due to better feed efficiency). This can lead to a more sustainable product, which can lead to great things like yogurt, cheese and ice cream. A world with less worms and more ice cream is a great place! Contact your sales representative for recommendations and to reduce the impact of parasites! This is ideal for your replacement heifers and other cattle. *(Edited from Dairy Herd Management – Dr. T Moravec)*

ONTARIO DAIRY YOUTH AWARD WINNER

The Ontario Holstein Branch has announced this year's winners of the Ontario Dairy Youth Award. The Award recognizes young people aged 25-35 who are actively involved in the operation of a dairy farm, who have demonstrated leadership and taken an active role in their communities. One of those winners is our customer from Grey County— Ted Clarke of Blayjoy Holsteins. Ted milks 50-55 cows with his brother Allan and parents Blain and Joyce on their Dundalk area farm. It's a 450 acre tie-stall operation with a total of 135 head of cattle. Winners received an all expenses paid trip to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Congratulations!

**OUR PLANT WILL BE SHUT DOWN
FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 UNTIL TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 FOR UPGRADES
THESE EQUIPMENT UPGRADES ARE TO BETTER SERVE YOU
PLEASE ORDER YOUR FEED ACCORDINGLY**