



W-S Feeds Chronicle

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Conestogo, Mount Forest,
Tavistock

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SAMPLING FORAGES DURING WET CONDITIONS

The impact that wet weather has on your silage dry matter content depends to a great extent on where it's stored. At most risk are bunker and stack silos, which have a much larger feeding face, on most farms entirely open to the elements. The almost daily rains we've been having can really make it tough to weigh out the silage in TMRs.

Relying on a silage DM test during a dry spell, and then mixing this silage by weight right after a big rain, can result in serious underfeeding of the silage. Of course that's because you're feeding a lot of rainwater with the silage, and the face of a bunker or stack silo can really absorb the "liquid sunshine." In some cases, it would be better to feed heavily rained-on silage by volume rather than by weight. For instance, if you've been putting two front end loader buckets of corn silage into your TMR mixer (and know how much this has been weighing), you may be better off to feed two buckets of rained-on corn silage without paying attention to how much it weighs. (The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute Farm Report)

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM

One management strategy that people almost inquire about is hoof care and footbath protocol. According to the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, they are running a footbath twice a week for all three milkings; the cows go through the footbath six times a week. They alternate weekly between copper sulfate and tetracycline hydrochloride in the footbath.

The footbath used to be set up at the beginning of the sort gate/chute and the cows often balked at entering a narrow gate and stepping into a tub of water. Last year they moved it to the end of the chute and now cows flow through the footbath much easier and faster. Running the footbath doesn't slow down milking like it used to. At least once each milking, manure is scraped out of the alley. This helps keep the cows' hooves a little cleaner, hopefully making the footbath more effective. Depending on cow numbers, 300-325 cows pass through the footbath and at the end of milking it gets dumped out and rinsed off.

The footbath they are using now is 50" wide X 80" long and is filled with about 4.5" of water. It takes up the entire width of the chute so the cows have to step through it - no squeezing by on the edge. Also, it is long enough that sometimes the cows step into the solution twice. There

CLOSED JULY 1, 2011

We will be closed on Friday July 1 for Canada Day. *Please order your feed accordingly.*

SPECIALS

CALF STARTER

When you buy 10 bags of calf starter, you will receive a \$1.00 off per bag. This special will run from June 1, 2011 until June 18, 2011.

MINERAL

When you buy any 10 bags of pasture mineral, mp mineral and/or beef cow mineral, you will receive a \$1.00 off per bag. This special will run from June 13 until June 30, 2011.

PENDING POSTAL STRIKE

In the event of a Canada Post strike we would like to remind everyone that it is their responsibility to pay their account on time.

We have several options in which we can receive payment: on-line banking, telephone banking, visa and mastercard, you can send a cheque with your sales representative or with the truck driver when your feed is delivered.

For those customers that rely on the mail to get their invoices, we do have the option of faxing and e-mailing your invoices directly to you. You may also call the office at any time to get your account balance. Please inquire with either your sales representative or the office as to how we can best facilitate these transactions.

SAFE FOOD AND HEALTHY FLOCKS

Canada has one of the safest poultry value chains in the world. World-class on-farm food

is about 80 gallons of water in the footbath along with 22-24 lbs of copper sulfate or 1.1-1.2 lbs. of tetracycline. On the ZinPro website (zinpro.com) in the dairy section, there is a page about footbaths - it has some good suggestions.

HOARD'S DAIRYMAN WEBINAR SERIES: FINE TUNING YOUR FEEDING STRATEGY

Hoard's Dairyman holds a webinar series every second Monday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. EST (noon CST). The April webinar was presented by Dr. Mike Hutjens and his power point presentation was entitled "Fine Tuning your Feeding Strategy." Here are a few of the take home points that were presented:

- The Hutjens rule of ration formulation: 50:35:15 (50% forage; 35% concentrate as cereal, protein, and mineral; 15% swing, either forage, concentrate or NFFS (non-forage fiber source)). Depending on forage quality and supply, deciding on the swing ingredient becomes a comparison of nutrient value and price. Forage is preferred based on price, rumen health and nutrient cycling on farm as opposed to importing more P.
- Value of corn silage relative to cornmeal prices. Given the current cornmeal prices, how valuable is corn silage? What once was a simple factor of 8X the price per bushel of corn is now about 10X considering increased fuel, fertilizer, harvest, inoculant and shrink costs.
- Rumensin. 300 mg of Rumensin per cow per day seems to be the norm, but 450 mg is actually where intake and milk are maximized.
- Fecal starch should be less than 4.5% of dry matter. Above the level indicates the need to review amount of starch, kernel particle size, and endosperm type in the ration.
- Feed additives with best return on investment: Rumen, Silage inoculants, Organic trace minerals.

The webinars are easy to access online. This website provides archived presentations. <http://www.hoards.com/webinars>.

ARE HIGH GRAIN PRICES TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT?

The good news is that milk prices have been increasing and in 2011 will average well above 2010 levels. The bad news (for dairy farmers) is that feed prices have been heading in the same direction, though at a much faster pace. We can get stirred up about high fertilizer prices - but compared to feed prices, fertilizer is a rather modest part of dairy farm costs. As noted before, \$8 corn and \$15 soybeans almost certainly will not become normal, but when grain prices do decline they're unlikely to return to the levels farmers have been accustomed to.

The reasons for high grain prices are both short-and long-term: First, supplies are at extremely low levels: The world's grain "cupboard" is almost bare - historically so. But the long-term demand for food and feed grains - which to some extent are interchangeable -because of an ever-growing world population, and because as people become even slightly more affluent they want to eat more meat. A veggie burger may be a "PETA person's" ideal meal but not to folks in developing countries. That explains why 50% of the world's hog population is in China.

Given this scenario, the profitability of the dairy industry will increasingly depend on its ability to make cows convert forages into milk, with

safety programs, strategies that maintain flock health, pathogen detection methods and food handling procedures all contribute to the production of safe, high-quality poultry products. Everyone agrees that strategies to promote flock health must not have a negative impact on human health. Consumer's trust in the food they eat is integral to the success of our industry. As a result, antimicrobial use and resistance has been a critical priority for the poultry sector for many years and it will continue to be a high priority. Enhanced vaccines, bacteriophage, pre- and probiotics, diet manipulators and immunomodulators, are all being assessed as potential compliments to the avian immune system. The effects of these tools on microbial populations in the gut and on avian immune function are also being studied to ensure their safe and effective use. The Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) includes food safety among its priority research areas. Canadians expect and deserve a safe food system; an integrated approach to research that addresses issues throughout the value chain will ensure that they continue to enjoy one of the best.

FUTURES MARKET

PORK (US \$ per cwt.)

April	\$90.20
May	\$99.05
June	\$101.45

BEEF

April	\$118.37
June	\$117.90
August	\$119.20
October	\$122.12

SAFETY DISCOUNTS

We would like to remind everyone of our company discounts:

NET - end of the following month

3% - if paid within 10 days of the date invoiced

2% - if paid by the 20th of the following month

For invoices not paid on time, there will be a 2% service charge per month.

TRADE SHOWS

We hope to see you at the Ontario Pork Congress in Stratford on June 21