

Fair Animals

Start planning now! Health papers for fairs can be done as soon as 30 days before the shipment date. If your fair animals have any issues (ringworm, warts, etc), call us to treat them now so they have time to heal before the show. Also, prevention methods such as Griseofulvin for ringworm takes 2-3 weeks to work, so call us to start your cattle on it now.



From Dr. Abbie, Flush Overview:

Flushing cows and heifers is a great opportunity for almost every farmer! You can take your best female genetics and multiply them by using your lower genetic females as recipients to carry the embryos of the higher quality female.

In the past, flushing was a tool used almost exclusively to produce high type, showy animals. Today, we use flushing to reproduce the showy animals, high production animals, and high genomic animals. In fact, we even produce embryos to stick into females during stressful times of heat or into hard breeders! With advancement of technology, we can even use sexed semen, so we are able to put more heifers on the ground.

The basic procedure of flushing a donor: We watch for the donor female to come into heat. 10 days after heat we start the female on stimulation hormones. The donor female will come into heat, and she will be bred. Then, 7 days after breeding we collect the embryos. They can either be placed in recipient females the day of flushing, or the embryos can be frozen for future use. The average embryo production across the world is 4 embryos per flush; however, the range is between 4 to 30!

Qualities of a good donor: 60 to 70 days in milk, 3.5/5 body condition score, heifers: 10 months or older, cows: younger cows produce more embryos than older cows.

If you'd like to give flushing a try, give Dr. Abbie a call at 920-344-1718!

Strong Dollar, Weak Dollar:

If you're like a lot of people, all the "blah blah blah" on the radio about the value of the dollar moving up or down, stronger or weaker is noise in the background. However, if you're curious, in-brief, realize this: a weak dollar means that what you buy from overseas is more expensive, it takes more dollars to buy the same item. At the same time American products are less expensive for other nations to purchase. A strong dollar is the reverse, so it encourages imports, and your agricultural products are more expensive for the rest of the world. The playing field should be level, except it's not, because the rest of the world wants dollars. The world wants to sell cheap to us not just to enhance their employment but to hoard dollars, because the U.S. is still the safest place to put your money, period. So the American dollar is always stronger than it should be. Why do people want dollars? So they can buy American stocks, bonds, farmland, etc, because the United States is still better than where they live. No matter what, you as an American farmer always have a slight disadvantage on the world market with pricing your products. You make up for it by being more efficient, and having a better quality product than anyone else, again, period.

Economics of Cheap Feed:

One of my first economics lessons came from a local hog farmer. He explained how cheap feed made for really low hog prices. At the time his quote was "I'd rather have 4 dollar corn because in the long run I'll make more on hogs." Corn was under 2 dollars at the time, and he was correct. Unfortunately, we're in another long low feed stretch. Talking two weeks ago to a corn and beef farmer in South Dakota and his comment was that he had two years of corn in the bin, and he was not selling it for 3 dollars (really large basis out there) and his plan was to put all his corn through animals and hope to make a profit that way.

Dry Cow Treatment-Do It Correctly

Dry cow treatment is designed to do two things: Minimize new infections in the first two weeks after a cow is dried up, and treat existing infections that are often sub-clinical but decrease milk production. Orbeseal is designed to seal the teat and prevent new infections for a longer time than dry cow antibiotics. If you are in a hurry, are dirty, and don't use the products correctly, then the potential for harm outweighs the benefit. The teat needs to be clean and alcohol wiped before anything is placed in the teat. You cannot do too good of a job cleaning the teat because this is the critical point in the process. Clean the teat and alcohol wipe the teat. Probably better to go to Walgreens and buy their alcohol wipes in a dispensing container and throw the tiny wipes away that come with the tubes. If a wipe looks dirty when you are done wiping, you need to wipe it again, and next time get the teat end cleaner before you wipe. Clean from the far away teats to the close, and treat close to far away. If the cow swipes at her teat and contaminates it, start over. And get out of the habit of massaging the teat and udder because if you message Orbeseal, it won't work and you have to put another tube in. Put the Orbeseal in the teat and don't touch the teat again except to dip it. So clean, alcohol wipe, dry tube, Orbeseal, dip, and re-clean if there is any contamination.

State/Region	2016 Mailbox Prices
Michigan	\$14.31
New Mexico	\$14.43
California	\$14.68
Corn Belt States	\$15.28
Western Texas	\$15.33
Indiana	\$15.76
Northwest States	\$15.81
All Federal Order Areas	\$15.95
New York	\$15.97
Eastern Pennsylvania	\$16.03
Ohio	\$16.05
Western Pennsylvania	\$16.07
Southern Missouri	\$16.15
Southeast States	\$16.27
Iowa	\$16.29
Illinois	\$16.34
Minnesota	\$16.45
Appalachian States	\$16.46
Wisconsin	\$16.59
Upper Midwest	\$16.60
Florida	\$17.23
New England States	\$17.27

Understanding beef implants

- There are two basic ingredients in implants that are either normal hormones or derivative hormones.
- Implants use various combinations to increase weight gain and lean muscle mass on your animals and decrease feed per pound of gain.
- Implants are designed usually predominantly for castrated male OR female animals, although they can usually be used across sexes.
- The best implants are combinations of hormones, not single products.
- The longer day implants tend to have diminishing returns at the end of their life.
- The last 130 days an animal is on feed is the most important for making money.
- The meat packers in Wisconsin tend to discourage use, claiming more stags, yet in all the beef magazines and feedlot magazines I read this is never brought up.

Implants return more dollars per invested dollar than anything else you can do when raising beef