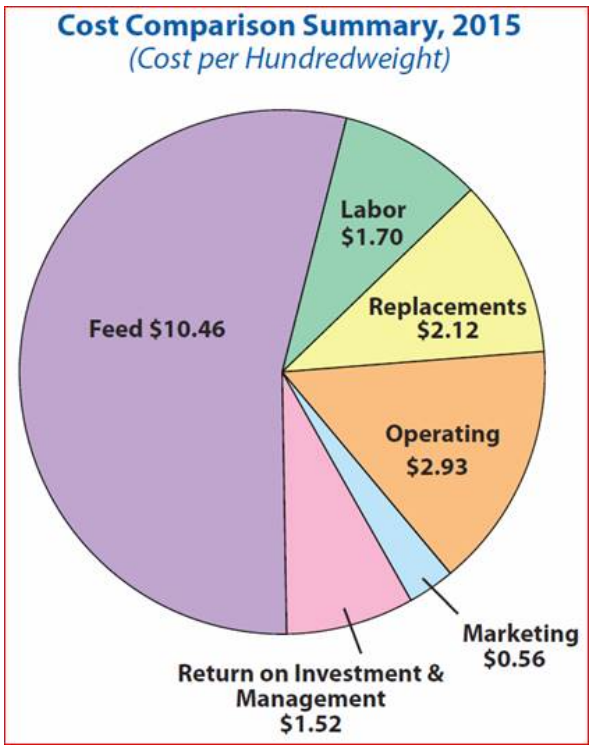
WVS June 2016 NEWSLETTER

Chart of average cost to produce 100 pounds of milk,

2015 on a California dairy, total cost is 17.78 per 100wt.



Dr. Abbie reminded me it's FAIR TIME soon! Watch for ringworm and warts. Get health papers done in advance. Abbie mentioned that it would be a good idea to give animals going to the fair a dose of Inforce® intranasal two weeks before the fair to help protect against respiratory disease.

Bloody Colostrum note:

We were always told that bloody colostrum was no good. One day Dr. Cass asked me what the justification was for that. I thought about it and I couldn't find an answer. Shortly after that a client called. They had a fresh cow with bloody colostrum, and they had tested it on a Brix refractometer (on farm testing machine). The test was really good! So I said feed it, and we'll check the calf's blood for total protein and see if antibodies were transferred. The calf's blood tested really high, enough to support adequate transfer.

Another note on Colostrum:

For years we knew that the cow secreted a bunch of white cells into colostrum. We thought these white blood cells from mom weren't important, but studies show that they are. Freezing kills all of these cells; pasteurizing kills only a percentage; and potassium sorbate, (a colostrum preservative) kills none. The take home on the white cells is that when things occur in nature, there is always a reason.

New Product: This is thanks to a client I saw using it,(thanks Jenny!) Dr. Kolby was dehorning calves and the farmer's daughter started dabbing on a product called 'SWAT®'. This has the same fly killer agent that is in the screw worm spray we currently use. The difference is that 'SWAT® is a petroleum based gel, which stays on the animal longer. We carry the bright pink colored product at the clinic, which enables one to see where it's been applied. Flies are on the way so watch the dehorning wounds.

Don't skip the vaccine:

There are some diseases that the younger vets in our practice have never gotten to see. Both IBR and BVD outbreaks are very rare. This is because of you, the dairy farmer, being vigilant and getting vaccine into your fresh cows.

IBR would cause pneumonia to sweep the herd, high temps of 106 to 107 with no response to treatment, although we tried. Milk production would drop to almost nothing, and a few cows would die. And then the herd turned the corner, and the dairyman could catch his breath, and then almost every cow in the herd would abort. This was the worst! As a vet I knew what was coming, how treatment was frustrating and mostly futile. Producers were depressed, upset and frustrated all at once.

BVD was similar; much less pneumonia like symptoms, more diarrhea, less abortions, but chronically infected calves would haunt the farm.

There seem to be more and more people avoiding vaccinating their kids because they have no clue how bad a disease can be. Let's not go there in the dairy industry. Let's keep the young vets from getting to experience a preventable disease outbreak.

Double checking your ovsync compliance:

A simple way to check whether you or your employees are getting your ovsync shots into cattle when you think you are, is to take a blood sample (red top) and check the progesterone level. You want the levels below .5 ng/ml. Take 10 samples and you can have a good picture of whether your cows are in heat with the only false reading from animals that are not cycling, they will also be low.

This test is behind the recent push to give two shots of Lutalyse on day 7 of ovsync rather than just one. We know that only 80% of the cows will have the CL totally eliminated with one shot, so the second shot, from 8 to 24 hours later assures us that the CL is totally killed.

Glycerol and/or Propylene Glycol;

With the increased production of biodiesel, there has been a decrease in the cost of glycerol. It is used in the cow's rumen and liver much the same as propylene glycol as a ketosis treatment. It is safe and effective and may become more popular depending on biodiesel demand going forward. There are a couple of important caveats.

First, methanol is used to produce glycerol from vegetable oils and it has to be removed. FDA suggests methanol levels below .015 percent or 150 parts per million (PPM). Be sure you get test results or assurances on methanol levels if you decide to purchase or feed glycerol.

Propylene glycol is used at a dose of about 300mls per day for a ketosis treatment, glycerol is used at 1000mls per day. Glycerol has a larger safety range for toxicity then propylene glycol.

It would really be nice if the price would drop low enough that quality product could be fed in fresh cow pens.

☺ Smile ☺

Several years ago I think I met one of the best farm salesmen ever. He was selling a stray voltage system. He extolled on the evils of stray voltage, and then he went on to say every farm has it and it builds up. It never leaves the farm, it just keeps on adding on to the prior voltage and I'm thinking we've discovered how to store electricity from wind towers. And he keeps on building the story about all this electricity staying on the farm and the finale is that your farm becomes radioactive. ☺

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Customer Appreciation Day

Tuesday, June 21

11:00-1:30

At Chester Town Hall

W6498 Oakwood RD

Waupun, WI

RSVP office by June15