

County Farm Centre Ltd.

April 2012

Picton

38 Cold Storage Rd.
Store: (613) 476-2171
Crops: (613) 476-9183
Fuel: (613) 476-1613

Foxboro

552 Ashley St.
Store: (613) 962-0769
Fuel: (613) 961-0731

Madoc

278 Lawrence St. W
Store: (613) 473-9040
Fuel: (613)-473-2499

www.countyfarmcentre.com

Agronomy Corner

Spring is Here!!!

Top Dressing Wheat

April is a great time to apply fertilizer to your wheat. When you apply your nitrogen it is a good idea to add some potash as well since you're already going over the field. Also think about adding sulfur as it increases plant health and helps in protein synthesis.

Alfalfa Winter Damage

Now is the time to evaluate your alfalfa stands. If you have had winter damage you need to allow the plants to restore needed carbohydrates. The following are ways to manage a winter injured stand: 1)increase cutting height 2)fertilize prior to first cutting if possible 3)apply herbicide to eliminate weed competition of moisture, light and nutrients and 4)avoid late fall cutting this season to prevent the problem from happening again.

Assessing your stands:

55 or more stems per square foot:

Little yield impact

40-55 stems per square foot:

Yield potential is limited

Less than 40 stems per square foot:

Replace the stand



Lane Maintenance

When you're getting ready for the spring please don't forget to clear up your laneways. A 15 feet wide by 15 feet high clearance is required to prevent damage to our custom application equipment. Please help us keep our machinery in top working condition.

Fuel Section

Another heating season has passed and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their patronage. Also, just to remind farmers, it is that time again to check your tanks, if you are not on automatic it takes 3 days notice for delivery.



Agronomy Return Policy

A friendly reminder of our return policy: All returns must be made in resalable condition and within the posted time-frames.

Don't forget to check out
countyfarmcentre.com
for DTN Grain Bids



Feed Corner

Transition cows, (21 days before and 21 days after calving) are absolutely critical to the profit of your dairy operation.

You know that cows that don't calve out right, won't milk and won't breed back.

Canadian research proves this (figure 1), therefore identifying cows at risk of not "calving out right" will save you money.

Cows losing weight is normal – But what is normal?

We expect cows to lose some weight, but excessive and rapid weight loss will overwhelm her system, resulting in several health problems (figure 1), lower milk production and poor reproduction.

Indicators of Poor Calving Health

NEFA pre-calving cowside tests (non esterified fatty acids)

NEFAs appear in blood. And are byproducts of fat metabolism. When cows lose excess weight NEFA levels go up. Cows with high NEFAs have more twisted stomachs, poorer reproduction and less milk than healthy cows.

BHBA (beta hydroxy butyric acid)

These cow side tests indicate that the cow's liver is being overwhelmed. Like high Nefa – high BHBA cows have poor repro, milk, and calving health.

DHIA records - Calculate individual cow's Fat to Protein Ratios on their first milk test.

Having 40% or more of your cows and heifers in the first 15 days of milk with a fat to protein ratio of 1.4 or greater you likely have a subclinical ketosis problem (Fat protein ratio = Fat % divided protein %)

Conclusion:

Monitoring body condition of cows and using DHIA

Figure 1

Ontario Veterinary College Research: Subclinical Ketosis in Early Lactation:

- up to 8 X risk of LDA (Duffield '97, LeBlanc '05)
- lower likelihood of pregnancy at first AI (Walsh et al '04)
- Lower milk production (Duffield '00)

records will help you prevent future Transition Cow Problems. Specific chemical tests will lend proof to what you are seeing.

| Indicators of Transition Health | Goal | Alarm |
|---|------|-------|
| Milk Fever | 1% | 5% |
| Displaced Abomasum (DA) | 1% | 5% |
| Cows culled or died < 60 days | 8% | 15% |
| % of cows SCC > 200,000 at first DHIA test | <15% | |
| Mastitis in first 30 days/100 cows | 5% | 20% |
| Calving requires assistance | 2% | 7% |
| Clinical ketosis > 27 µmol/L serum BHBA | 1% | 15% |
| Sub-clinical ketosis > 14 µmol/L serum BHBA | <20% | 40% |
| Retained Placenta | <4% | 10% |
| Metritis (vaginal discharge) | 3% | 15% |
| Protein to Fat Ratio at First DHIA test | | <0.7% |

Mike Ingram, our Masterfeeds Territory Manager can assist you to monitor your Transition Cows, he has both the knowledge and the products to make your Transition Cows highly profitable.

Mike Ingram



Masterfeeds

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(905) 376-2370

IN-STORE SPRING SPECIALS

* Picton Location Only *



Irregular T-Shirts
4 FOR \$10

#2800105

Garden Hose 5/8" x 75'
\$15.97

#365-1127



Denim Jeans
\$7.77

#9999

Kodiak Rebel
8" Work Boots
\$89.99

#310073

