

County Farm Centre Ltd.

April 2013

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.

Ask us about adding Agrotain to your urea which will maximize the efficiency of the nitrogen by controlling losses due to volatilization.



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

Agronomy Return Policy

A friendly reminder of our return policy: All returns must be made in resaleable condition and within the posted timeframes.

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.

- IN-STORE DEALS -

Cooper MVP
Work Socks



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Utility Cabinet
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Now \$44.88
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Hammill
Coveralls
Navy/Green
(sizes 38-54)



Reg \$41.99 WAS \$46.99
Tall \$44.99 WAS \$49.99

Feed Section

Calf Navel Disinfection

The keys to disease prevention in newborn calves are passive transfer of immunity and exposure to pathogens. We place a lot of emphasis on the former and too little emphasis on the latter. Minimizing the calf's exposure to pathogens is one of the surest, easiest, and most cost effective methods of improving calf survival. And it doesn't take too much effort.

Pathogens that cause calfhood diseases (rotavirus, Salmonella, E. coli, Cryptosporidium, etc.) are usually passed to the calf through the calf's environment. Bedding and manure that contain organisms or oocysts are a ready source of contamination. The mother can also harbor organisms that can infect the calf - be it through the colostrum and milk (e.g., Johne's) or from manure on the dam's body. Newborn calves are at a real disadvantage when it comes to fighting disease. Not only are they highly stressed, but their immune defenses are minimal until it begins to consume colostrum. In addition, the animal has an opening into its circulation - the umbilical cord. Infection of the cord can result in rapid disease (septicemia, or "bacteria in the blood") and death. It is very important to minimize the potential infection of the navel cord by disinfecting the navel. Unfortunately, a recent USDA (NAHMS) study revealed that only about 47% of calves have their navels dipped. Studies have shown that calf mortality is reduced when the navel is dipped shortly after calving. Therefore, it should be a consistent management practice for all dairy producers.

Be sure to use a strong tincture of iodine to dip the navel (at least 7% iodine), and not dilute iodine solutions such as teat dip. This will inhibit microbial migration into the calf's body. Tincture of iodine also contains alcohol, which will help seal and dry the cord. Dip the navel, don't use a spray. Sprays don't cover well enough unless you really work at it. You can purchase inexpensive devices designed specifically for navel dipping. They're well worth it.

According to Dr. G. A. Donovan, University of Florida, you should dip the navel as soon as possible after birth, when you move the calf to the

hutch or pen, and again 12 to 18 hours later. Remember, dipping the navel is one way to reduce an animal's exposure to disease causing pathogens. It's easy, inexpensive, and pays great dividends in terms of reduced calf mortality, morbidity, and treatment expenses.

Written by Dr. Jim Quigley



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