

New Bolus on the Market for Dairies

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Services*

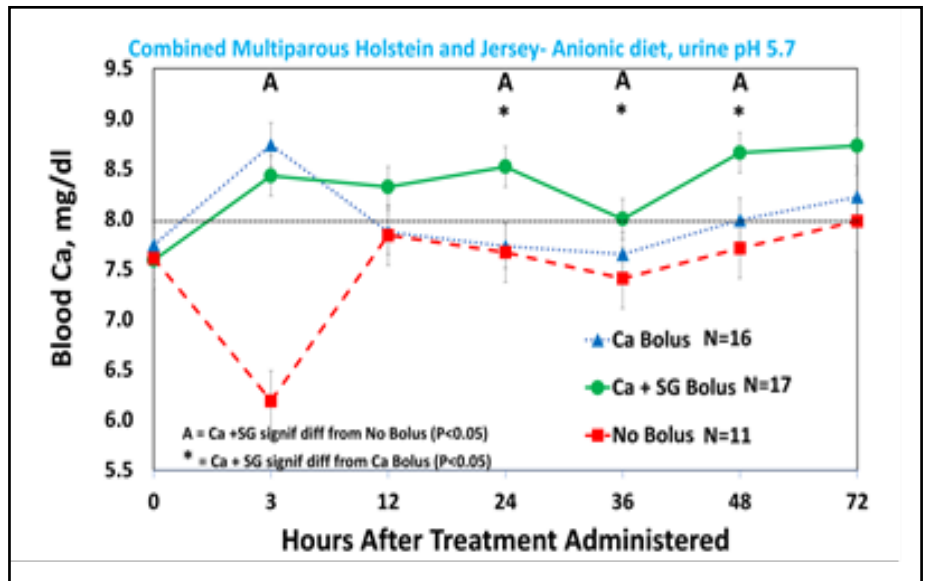
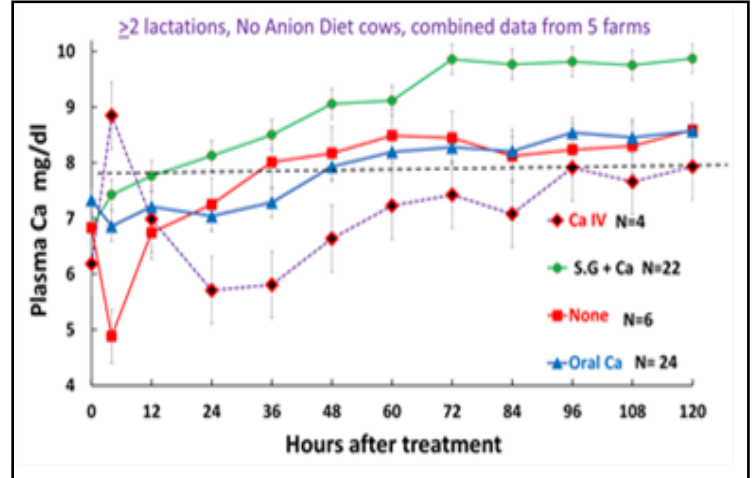
Dairy cows have a huge demand for calcium post calving. The ability to maintain a constant blood calcium level in the face of a heavy demand from the udder is accomplished by the parathyroid gland.



This gland releases the hormone PTH which helps with calcium absorption from the bones but also regulates the production of an active form of Vit D(1,25-D) by the kidney. The 1,25-D in turn regulates calcium absorption from the intestines and prevents calcium loss from the kidney. Adequate Vit D can be in the prefresh diet but until it is converted by the kidney it does nothing in the calcium complex.

Those cows that can't regulate their calcium in blood will have the condition of hypocalcemia or dyscalcemia. Studies have shown over 50% of the second lactation and greater cows will show some form of hypocalcemia for several days post calving. This leads to poor appetites, ruminations, reproduction and milk production. Numerous calcium drenches, pastes and boluses have appeared on the market promising the ability to alleviate this condition. One problem has been without the 1,25-D working to drive the absorption of calcium they have been met with varied success at holding calcium elevated long enough for the cow's own system to catch up

Enter a new bolus called the Goff-Bol. It was developed by Dr. Jesse Goff who is considered one of the leading experts in milk fever research. Within this Solanum bolus is a plant called Solanum



glaucophyllum. This plant has a compound in it that gets converted to the 1,25-D by the rumen microbes instead of the kidney thus it helps right away with calcium absorption. Studies completed by Dr. Goff showed higher levels of calcium held for longer periods of time as indicated by the green line in the graph.

There are two forms of the bolus that are to be used based on the type of prefresh diet your cows are on.

Consult with your herd vet to determine which of these are right for your herd. We believe this bolus is the correct one to get that cow thru the first week post calving.

Avian Influenza Update within the State

The state of Wisconsin is aggressively looking for the Avian Influenza virus in bulk tanks and individual cow samples. They are not finding it. I'm really happy for all the dairy farmers in this state and I'm really optimistic that it's not going to be a problem.

Three take home issues relating to the Influenza outbreak:

1. The dairy industry still needs to be aggressive with biosecurity.
2. The poultry industry in Wisconsin is small and has not been affected recently and this may be keeping the virus out of the state. At the same time, if I had a dairy, I would not have any outdoor poultry on the premise. Actually, I wouldn't have any poultry on the premise either inside nor outside.
3. The Wisconsin dairy industry has much higher milk, udder, and cow hygiene standards than the states that have had major outbreaks. This concept and the argument supporting it was shared with me by a major drug company consulting veterinarian that travels to Texas and California. He has some sanitation stories that take me back 45 years.

Update on the Cattle Market in Wisconsin

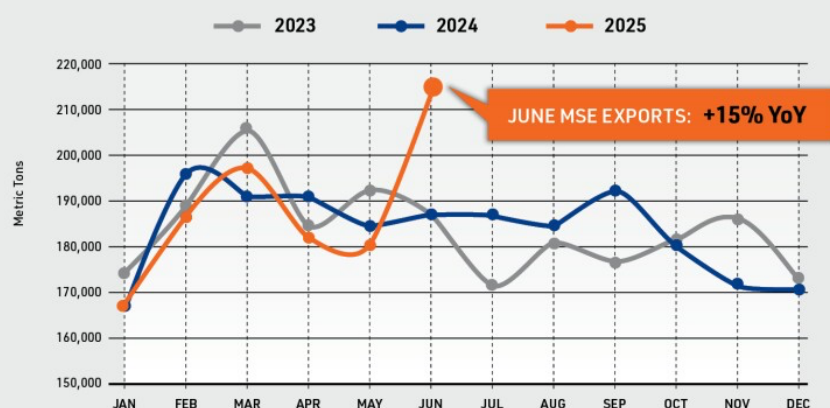
The cattle market shows no signs of slowing down. The following notes are from a Wisconsin DATCP weekly publication.

Slaughter numbers are still down significantly from a year ago. During the last week of July into August, 52% of the slaughter was steers, 30% were heifers. A drop to 25% heifers is considered indicative of herd rebuilding, the current level is aged cow replacement. The beef cow herd is the lowest since 1973.

Two arguments I make for longer term high beef prices. First, with the average beef cow/calf herd of 47 cows, small operations still contribute a huge number of animals to feedlots. But more and more of the small farmers are converting pasture to corn, beans, and wheat. I've watched in for decades when I hunt the Dakotas. It's like death from a thousand paper cuts. Second, further west, the droughts still prevent cow herd expansion.

U.S. Dairy Exports by Month

30-Day Months, Milk Solids Equivalent



Monica Ganley, senior director of global trade analysis with the U.S. Dairy Export Council, attributes the uptick to improved U.S. milk production alongside tepid domestic demand, which has kept U.S. product prices affordable for global buyers. In particular, cheese has stood out, with international markets showing a voracious appetite for U.S. offerings.