

FOCUS

Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's this week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania. Remember these are averages so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No. 2y - 2.70
- Wheat, No. 2 - 3.70
- Barley, No. 3 - 1.94
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.57
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.20
- Ear Corn, - 57.80
- Alfalfa Hay - 111.50
- Mixed Hay - 103.75
- Timothy Hay - 115

BY TOM MALONEY Dairy Agent Sanitation On Dairy Farms

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — I think that we all need to do a better job on dairy sanitation in the county. I include myself, because although I have good intentions of always scrubbing my boots or putting on plastic ones on a farm visit, I occasionally will visit a neighboring farm without scrubbing or forget to put disinfectant in my car once in a while and enter the barn anyway. I think that we are all guilty of not being as strict as we need to be about people not wearing boots when they enter barns.

Without good traffic control on your farm the health of your animals may be compromised and diseases may be spread by everything from infected garments to large and small equipment. People spread diseases directly by means of their boots, shoes, hands and clothing. Shared hoof trimmers, truck tires, farm machinery and equipment which passes between farms can also spread diseases.

When you use tools on healthy animals on your farm after you used them on sick or infected animals diseases can be spread. Don't

use common syringes and needles between cows to vaccinate, blood test or administer drugs. This practice can spread diseases such as bovine leukosis from infected animals or carriers to noninfected animals.

Every farmer should set strict sanitation rules for all visitors. Visitors need to wear clean overalls and disinfected rubber boots or plastic disposable boots. Keep a supply of disposable boots and extra pairs of overalls to make it easier to enforce your rules. Plastic disposable boots are available from any local farm supply store or from farm supply catalogs. Boots need to be disinfected between farms or on the same farm after contact with unhealthy animals.

Besides setting stricter rules, there are additional steps to help control traffic. Discourage visitors from entering animal housing or feeding areas. Designate specific visitor areas to cut down on the contact with human carriers of disease.

DHIA supervisors are now required to disinfect their boots or wear disposable plastic on all farms. Require the same from all

salesmen and other visitors to the farm. And remind people who wear the disposable boots to make sure that they pick their feet up so that they don't scuff their feet and scare the cattle. We need to begin to work to cut down on the chances of spreading disease by visitor traffic.

Sec. Wolff Wants Production Ag In Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, DC — Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff told members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation and key agricultural leaders that the 1990 Farm Bill should focus on production agriculture.

"Environmental goals can be met while maintaining our focus on production," said Wolff. "We can integrate conservation and environmental initiatives through the Reserve Program. We can encourage farmers to idle environmentally beneficial land, but it's unfair to restrict land use without compensation."

Wolff also recommended more planting flexibility so farmers could plant high demand crops and still receive federal payments for idled acreage.

Wolff met with members of Congress in Washington on Oct. 11 and 12 to discuss national issues that affect farmers and consumers in Pennsylvania.

He also urged formation of a national Food Safety Council to educate consumers on food safety issues.

"Public anxiety and alarmist discussion of food safety has been far greater than the risks. Our consumers need to know how much is being done to protect them, and that their food supply is the safest

in the world," said Wolff.

In meetings with congressmen, Wolff also called for increased funding for research and extension and for passage of HR-2336 to lower the estate tax burden that has forced new generations of farmers off the farm when they were unable to pay inheritance taxes.

Federal Crop Insurance Requirements

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)— Due to the 1989 Disaster Assistance Act, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has announced an extension of the sales closing date for fall-seeded wheat, barley, oats, and rye. This extension applies only to producers who have filed for 1989 disaster assistance for the

above listed crops and crop insurance is a requirement. Application for crop insurance must be filed within 15 days of ASCS notification that crop insurance is required or November 30. A waiver of this requirement will not be granted. If you have any questions regarding this provision, contact your county ASCS office.

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