



From the desk of Dr. Gary Collings
July 1st, 2015

Limit Feeding Heifers—where do you make your cut backs? Not here!

Current milk prices are obviously not what they were last year. Many of you are looking for areas to trim expenses. I am advising you not to limit feed your youngstock. First off, they are young growing animals. We breed them to calve around 22 months of age and even then they are still growing.

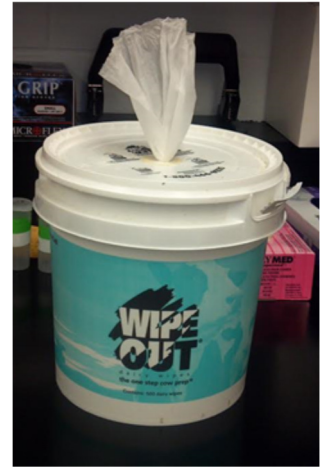
Fresh heifers are like fresh cows in the sense they need big bellies to fill up with food. If they are getting wider than taller, then we can decrease the amount of energy. But I want a “hay belly.” They must have the capacity to eat like a lactating dairy heifer. Body condition score your animals—look and touch their hooks and pins. Assess the belly, is there room for 40 lbs of feed?

We never want heifers to run out of feed. They must have the nutrients to grow and produce milk. Cutting this cost today will end up costing you more in the long run.

*A huge **thank you** to all of you and your families who helped with the local tornado clean up. This is a great community who takes care of each other very well. 38 years in veterinary medicine and it is still fun. Find joy in your work and it will never be work. God Bless you and yours and God Bless America. Doc*

Mastitis Tip of the Month

Use wipes soaked in alcohol. Not the small pads in the dry treat boxes. Teats wiped well with alcohol have 10x less bacteria. Clean teats prior to every infusion. If you use dry treat and a sealant, that means you use 2 wipes. Remember we are trying to prevent mastitis, not cause it.



This wipe can be purchased through the following:

Distributor	Phone Number
Animart	1-800-255-1181
Daniel's Farm Store	1-717-656-6982
Hoegger Goat Supply	1-800-221-4628
Jeffers, Inc.	1-800-533-3377
Estep Sheep & Goat Supplies (formerly Register's Sheep and Goat Supply)	1-855-244-2182
Leedstone	1-877-608-3877

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