

DAIRYINFO

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3 STEPS TO AVOID ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE VIOLATIONS

Even though the number of antibiotic residue violations in meat is very small, market dairy animals represent the bulk of violations among all classes of cattle. Responsible therapeutic use of antibiotics in dairy replacement heifers is one of the priorities for avoiding drug residues in market cattle and ensuring consumer confidence in food safety.

It is critically important to follow tips from the [Dairy Animal Care and Quality Assurance](#) program, to avoid improper use of antibiotics and subsequent residue violations:

- Use animal health products exactly as they are labeled or prescribed by a veterinarian, with whom you have a valid client/patient relationship.
- Do not change the route of administration. For example, if the label says to give a subcutaneous injection, only administer it in this way.
- Maintain complete, accurate treatment records.

Be sure to record the following information:

- Animal identification/number
- Drug name
- Date of treatment(s)
- Dosage given (give no more than 10 cc of product/injection site. In addition to injection site blemishes, higher amounts of product delivered to one site will affect labeled withdrawal time for meat and withholding time for milk.)
- Route of administration (subcutaneous, intravenous or intramuscular)
- Location of administration (Antibiotic products labeled for subcutaneous or intramuscular administration should be given in the neck region.)
- Name of person who gave the injection
- Reason for treatment
- Earliest date that the animal will have cleared milk-withholding or meat-withdrawal periods

Remember to keep treatment records on file for a minimum of 24 months after an animal changes owner or location.

Always consult with your veterinarian for specific recommendations for your operation.

(Edited from an article by the Dairy Calf & Heifer Association, March 2011)

TRY REN-FOOT FOR RESULTS THIS SPRING!

PLAN AHEAD... SUMMER HEAT COMING SOON!

It's hard to imagine that in a few short weeks we'll all be talking about heat and humidity! Once winter's grip is broken and the weather begins to moderate we are faced with the onset of more summer-like temperatures and climatic conditions. Now is the time to think ahead and plan for those hot, dog-days of summer – and address the probability and impact of heat stress on the health, productivity and profitability of your cows.

Don't wait until the first "hot day" arrives. Unfortunately, that will be too late! Cows prefer a cooler, more moderate temperature and humidity than we have in most areas throughout the late spring and summer months. And their ultimate comfort has a direct correlation on how well they eat and milk. Heat stress can be countered from many directions, including such things as nutrition, water and airflow. I'd be happy to talk with you about heat stress – and to work with you all summer to keep your cows "happy" and performing year-round!



RESULTS WITH RENAISSANCE!

A Blueprint for Success

CHECK OUT OUR EXCELLENT PRESERVATIVES & INOCULANTS THAT DELIVER RESULTS

Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! From calves to heifers, dry and lactating cows, my goal is to help you.

That's Renaissance's commitment!

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THE TEAM FOR RESULTS
SOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESS!

Spring is here!

In many locations the first cutting of hay will be here before we know it! When and how you cut grasses and/or alfalfa is critical to the nutrient value of your hay, along with ensuring it is dried properly prior to baling. In addition to these management-related considerations, it is important to treat hay for maximum preservation and nutritional quality at feed out. Treating your hay with a quality, research-tested preservative during baling can help reduce spoilage and mold growth, while maintaining nutritional quality. **FRESHCUT®**, by KEMIN, is excellent for use with dried hay when baling! It can help to optimize hay production and ultimately quality. It is equally important to treat haylage with a quality preservative or inoculant. Haylage often contains undesirably high or low levels of moisture, which can result in less than ideal fermentation and lead to decreased intake and/or animal performance. Get the facts! Invest in preserving your hay/haylage this spring and summer!

The impact of quality inputs...

The digestive system of a cow is a remarkable thing. Cows consume forages and feeds that help maintain a population of rumen 'bugs'. In turn, these 'bugs' aid in the breakdown and utilization of ingredients, and also contribute to the nutrient value of the ration when they die and are digested by the cow. This entire process (rumination) serves to maintain the rumen's microbial population, along with milk production and body condition!

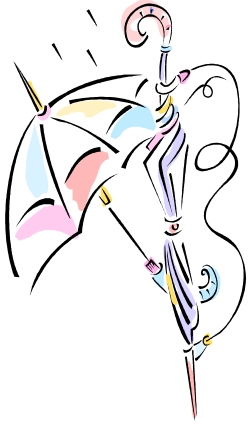
But can a cow function just as well on poor, low-quality inputs? Can she produce milk up to her genetic potential on 'whatever we feed her'? Can she maintain a reproductive cycle as expected? Simply stated... no! While the cow will make the best use of whatever feeds and forages she is given, there is a point at which her unique system will start to decline, impacting her body condition, health, reproduction and production. Quality forages, feeds and nutrient supplements will help her maintain necessary body and production demands. This is critical to her functionality.

Make sure you feed cows the best ~ an investment in your bottom line.



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April 2011...

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