

PACIFIC MOO BIZ

June is Dairy Month!



The right Choice

man nature: "People of all ages and walks of life want to be informed and, in that endeavor, to be amused." This principle defined Thomas' mission for this Almanac: "to be useful, with a pleasant degree of humor." In the agrarian society of that period, printed matter was scarce yet cherished. Most households possessed two books (only one which accepted advertising): The Bible and the Farmers Almanac. To compete with other venues, he added things like interest tables, court dates, stage coach schedules and mileage between places, as well as agricultural information and the calendar.

(from the 2012 Canadian Edition of The Farmers Almanac)

RECYCLE

Certainly recycling manure and or sand for bedding is becoming a growing practice on many farms. In British Columbia, there are now or soon to be 17,000 cows on recycled bedding in the way of heat treated bedding fibre, sand and green bedding fibre. Almost 75% of the 17,000 cows are on heat treated bedding fibre, making it the most favorable method. In the last 2 1/2 years, over 25% of BC's cows are on recycled bedding. We expect in the next 2 1/2 years to see this number double. Certainly the field, soil, phosphorous and spreading advantages have a large influence also.

NEW FORMULA

Chinese scientists have developed cows that can produce human breast milk, opening up discussions about the future of ge-

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O wondrous June! Our lives should be like thee

With such calm grace fulfilling destiny.

- Susan Louisa

netic modification. In the future, finding human breast milk in your grocery store could be a reality. Through progress in biotechnology, the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology of the China Agricultural University has successfully developed genetically modified dairy cows: cows that are able to produce human breast milk. The transgenic herd of 300 Holstein cattle was developed through the process of inserting human genes into cloned cow embryos, which were then implanted into surrogate cows. The world medical community is now increasingly advocating breastfeeding.

(Pacific Rim Magazine)

DOUBLE DIPPING TEATS

It is known that effective pre-dipping is important in reducing new mammary infections caused by environmental bacteria. Milking prep can also involve massaging teat and for-estripping milk. That process removes manure or dirt from the teat skin while stimulating the cow. Several months ago, an owner of a leading milk quality herd told a group that they dipped teats again after for-estripping - in effect, a double double dip prior to attaching the milking unit. The result for them was a further reduction in somatic cell count (SCC) from an average of 50,000 to just above 40,000. It was surprising in that they consistently do all steps well. Another producer in the group implemented double dipping and after that saw similar results.

(from Michigan State University & Dairy World)

FAT

Milk fat is one of the most variable components of milk. While milk fat percentage has limited variability for the unit's daily production, fat content from individual cows may vary from milking to milking, day to day and from one part of milking to another. Besides the age of animals, the following are some causes of fat variations:

- Changes in feeding schedules or rations.
- Changes in milking schedules.
- Unusual noises in barns.
- Presence of strangers.
- Presence of barking dogs or unexpected activity.
- Weather changes or heat stresses.
- Changes in milking routines.
- Removal of milk from tank.
- Fast agitation causing foam which causes churning.
- Ice or butter particles floating in milk.
- High blend temperatures at 4 milkings.
- Slow cooling can cause problems.

Certainly there are many other factors with fat variations, especially in nutrition.

(from Dairy World)

ALMANAC

This year's issue of The Farmers Almanac is the founder's, Robert B. Thomas', 220th consecutive issue (30th for Canada). It began as a 48 page pamphlet. In 1792, 26 year old Thomas recognized a timeless and universal characteristic of hu-



CowScout™ S makes the principles of estrus detection easier for you.

The Basic Principles

- CowScout analyzes and displays an animal's activity in 2-hour periods.
- Individual cow activity in one period is compared to the activity in the same period over the preceding days to develop a baseline.
- An attention notification is sent if the animal's present activity has increased sufficiently or dropped significantly over several consecutive periods.
- CowScout sends an alert notification if there is a suspicious increase or reduction in activity, but not enough for a full attention notification.
- All sensitivity levels can be customized by user, so your activity benchmarks fit your individual operation and your cows.

How it Works

- When a cow or heifer is in peak heat, activity levels increase and the CowScout leg or neck* monitor sends a signal to a nearby wireless receiver.
- The receiver then notifies the CowScout herd database which animals are active.
- The CowScout database in-turn sends a message to your computer, your mobile device or both – depending on your pre-set preferences.

