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Put on Ord talk?



4/16/2008

FEED PRICES, WHAT IS GOING ON. SPRING SPECIAL??

Soybeans went up about \$2.00 per bushel recently. This raises the full fat soybean meal price. Luckily we have bought up enough to last for a while. The pork blood meal went up also, it usually does for the spring and summer, so we bought some ahead. We will be okay for a while here also.

The vitamins and trace minerals have come down a little so far. I feel by fall they should come down more??

The phosphorus is holding steady, after it came down earlier. Many companies. Co-ons. fertilizer people. had

That feeding these by-products to our livestock, did not cause BSE? That it was a cover up on using certain drugs to prevent warble flies and other parasites? Also that it was pushed by our multinational plant protein companies, like soybean processors etc. It is now happening, so sad. There is no question in my mind; none at all, that copper shortage, those parasites drugs, and some other factors are the cause of BSE. I feel another factor is also by those that are trying to go vegetarian, not animal food. The animal rights activists are trying very hard to hurt us, we need to speak out, fight back. I know you ranchers very well; I know how well you take care of your mother cows. Yes, I just wish all of those city people could see the love, hours and hours, of work, care you put into this. So special. How you are so proud to put out the healthiest food in the world, BEEF.

We now have less beef cow numbers then we did for many, many, years. There will be fewer calves this fall and the next. The people have not quit eating beef by all of the figures I see. They may have quit going to restaurants and ordering as many T-bones, but they still eat beef in one form or another. Even if they eat a little less, we will produce a lot less. With less beef on the market and this economy starts back up, the people will gain confidence again, they will buy more beef. Soon as that happens, the packers, Wal-Mart, will have to scramble to catch up. If this happens as I feel it could, watch the feeder market go up! I pray this will be the case this year and you ranchers get paid well.

Another thing, we are so far down on cow numbers. If we start breeding more heifers next spring, 5 maybe 10 percent more, that is that much less beef on the market.

Also they are doing a buy-out on dairy products. This can put more beef, hamburger, on the market and hold our prices down for a while, but in the long run when it's over, there will be less dairy beef going to slaughter also.

We have other things going for us like R-Calf, O.C.M., state organizations, joining together with other food groups. We have COOL, (country of origin labeling). We stopped part of the buy out of packing plants by JBS. All of these things and more they are doing is a big plus. But we have to support them financially and in person, our letters, E-mails, to our elected representatives. Again I say, you have never in your lives had such an opportunity to take hold of your industry as you have now. Please take it, use it, help us. Thanks to Bill Bullard and many other *area manufacturers' administration are beginning to listen. We can't let up!* The big boys are fighting us with all of their money and power. They don't want to lose their control! We can win people, we can. It is your decision.

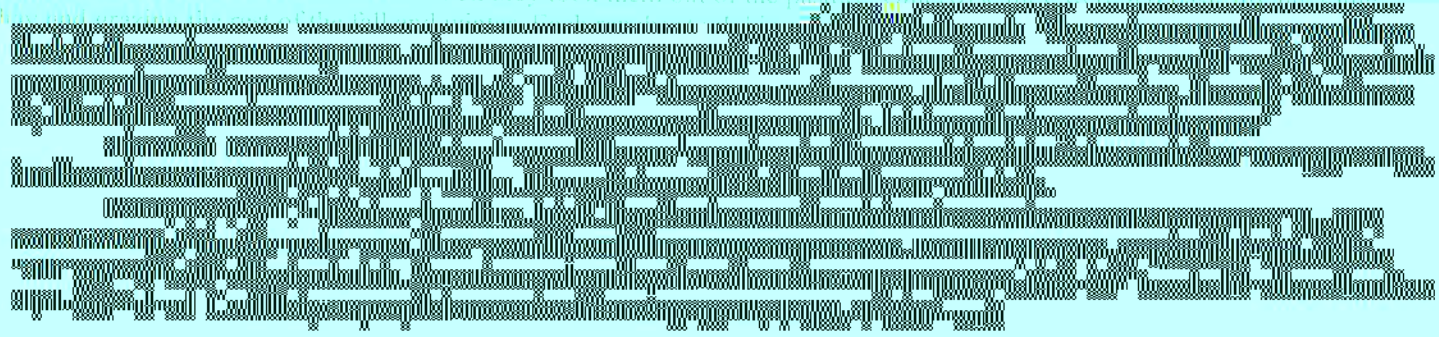
Again, I feel confident about our future. You make the decisions for your operation. All I ask, yes as the feed man, please don't cut back on that cows nutrition for this time period. For you to have 5 or 10 percent more open cows this fall, calves weighing 40 to 60 pounds less, will only make it worse. Okay?

Vince

FEEDING 2010 RANGE BALANCER

There is a young ranch couple in Wyoming; they have been feeding the 2010 Range Balancers for several years. Because cattle prices are down and costs are up, Tim called that he had been shopping around. He concluded that the price of the 2010 maybe higher per ton, but even pricing it against a cheap mineral, when you figure what consumption should be, the 2010 would only cost one cent per day more. That is only 33.65 per year. That is if they only eat what they are supposed to of the competition mineral. Tim knows how much they eat of the 2010. He ordered the 2010 again, he was happy with what it had been doing. As he said the 2010 also had three times the copper etc, as the cheap one. That there was no comparison of ingredients of the cheaper mineral.

He went on to say that his neighbor and him had been renting a summer pasture together. They ran 300 cows in this pasture. They had been doing this for years. Tim said the cows were all the same; they used the same bulls, saved those heifers. The neighbor won't feed any mineral on grass. Tim couldn't pay for his neighbor's cow's mineral so the cows only had salt from June 1 to October 15th when they took them out of the pasture. *Oh, I can't believe it!*



We will also see if they weigh more. The 135 days on the 2010 should cost around \$11.00 per cow. That would only take 11 pounds extra gain to pay for it. If the calves bring \$550.00 per head off of the cow, each percent of extra breed back is \$5.50 per cow. Two percent more bred back would be \$11.00 per cow, what the 2010 would cost. Tim and everyone out there, I know the breed back will be higher than this. Again, I will let you all know.

I believe that this is another example of what proper nutrition can do for that cow. If her body is nutritionally sound she can pass this on to her calf. This then passes on to you in dollars, extra profit.

Copper can be stored in the liver to last up to three months. I'm sure by the time this 4.5 months of pasture season is over, the copper is very low and needs to be replenished. I'm glad this isn't a six or seven-month period. It's harder to play catch up and can cost us in other problems.

Thank you for this information Tim. Also thank you for your confidence in the 2010. I know we all have to cut costs somewhere the way things are now, including me. I will not cut the value of the Ag West products. Those cows will only perform as well as they are fed, where their body is nutritionally, to cut cost here is only going to make it worse. For that cow, her calf, you, and yes, even for me. I hope we can all get through this together.

Vince

I know some of you get tired of me writing about DDGS (Distillers Dried Grains). I write these things, represent articles, only for the reason that I believe so much in the health of that MOTHER Cow. Not only for her benefit, but her offspring, steers, heifers, and replacement heifers which will also be mothers. Also to produce healthy beef as we have been. All I try to do is let you see all sides. It is your decision.

WORTHINGTON, Minn. (AP) Ethanol's main by-product, which is sold as livestock feed, has raised potential food safety concerns.

Several studies have linked the byproduct, known as distillers grain, to elevated rates of E. coli in cattle. And now, distillers grain is facing further scrutiny because the Food and Drug Administration has found that it often contains antibiotics left over from making ethanol.

Ethanol production relies on enzymes, yeast and sugar to convert corn into fuel. And just as the wrong bacteria in the body can sicken people, it can also cause a variety of ailments in the batch of ethanol. Mark von Keitz with the University of Minnesota's Biotechnology Institute said in the ethanol production, the main enemy is a bacterial bug that makes lactic acid.

"What these organisms do is they also compete with the yeast for the sugar," said Von Keitz. "But instead of making alcohol, they primarily make acid.

If enough of the bacteria are present, ' Keitz said, fermentation can be ruined. "It gets acidified to the point that the yeast is no longer able to properly produce ethanol, and then you're stuck with a big batch of corn mash," said Von Keitz."

If that happens, there's no ethanol and no profit. To prevent the problem, producers rely on medicine. What people operating these plants are trying to do is keep these lactic acid bacteria in check," said Von Keitz." And one way of doing that is with the help of antibiotics."

Ethanol producers use penicillin and a popular antibiotic called virginiamycin to kill bacteria. And that raises two potential concerns.

One is that these treatments might promote the growth of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. The development of these "superbugs" is a major concern in health care because they reduce the effectiveness of medicines.

Von Keitz found some bacteria that were, in fact, resistant when he sampled bacteria at four Midwest ethanol plants several years ago.

The second concern is that the antibiotics could find their way to humans through the food chain. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has taken a mostly hands-off approach to the use of antibiotics in the ethanol industry. But amid increasing concerns over food safety in recent years, the agency is taking a closer look.

"A year ago we put a survey out to the FDA field people to collect samples of those distillers grains, and ethanol and to start analyzing for antibiotics residues," said Linda Benjamin, a chemist with the FDA's Center of Veterinary Medicine. Samples were requested from 60 ethanol plants, including some in Minnesota. She said testing showed that many contained antibiotics, mainly four types.

"Penicillin, virginiamycin, erythromycin, and tylosin," said Benjamin.

At this point the story gets murky. Benjamin won't say if any of the antibiotics exceeded federal guidelines. Those guidelines are part of the problem; they're a patchwork and far from definitive on what level of antibiotics in distillers' grain are safe.

If the FDA decides to restrict antibiotics in the ethanol industry, it could have far-reaching consequences. Distillers

grain is a major source of low-cost livestock feed. Any restrictions on its sale and use as feed will hurt the profitscarce ethanol industry and the livestock farmers who rely on it.

Charlie staff, executive director of the Distillers Grain Technology Council, said distillers grain is one of the few dependable moneymakers in the industry.

"If they didn't have distillers grain as a revenue, many more of them wouldn't be able to operate," said staff. Meanwhile the regulatory process continues to play out. The FDA will test more distillers grain samples, and expects to issue a final report this summer.

The maker of virginiamycin declined to comment, but the company is expected to ask the FDA to approve the antibiotic as a human food additive. (VINCE, THIS SCARES ME. I have seen articles where their "COMPANY" said using virginiamycin should be safe??). Depending on how this regulatory battle winds up, it could change the way Minnesota's 18 ethanol plants distill the product.

I would like all of you to watch the following 7 minute video on your computer.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8kLaEuAoxg> ALSO

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4069761537893819675>

They are getting close to Mandatory Animal I.D. on us. This is so unfair! For example the Big Hog and Chicken producers don't have to tag each animal. But, ranchers do! Tell me...What Is the difference between a herd of your cows or calves being together on one ranch or a bunch of hogs in one shed or hog farm? If they only have to tag or have one number for thousands?? Of head, why can't we? If one hog gets sick, won't the others be exposed? If one is sick and if isn't checked, but a healthy one is, then what is the point??

The other thing that upsets me is how our USDA is using our money, is buying votes to get this Passed! Please go to NAJSSummary.pfd Click on, Recent Name, then recent State federal Funding Fiscal year, and see who all is getting the breaks. Then call and let them know your feelings, Before it is to late! Please.

Personal Page

Rosie my secretary, said I should let all of you local people know what all we sell, and that they never knew we sold all we did. So here goes Rosie:

Yes, I only write about the Ag West Roughage Equalizers, Range Balancers, Cubes and pellets. It is what I am about and we can deliver.

We have on hand three kinds of dog food, two cat foods. Salt, bag and block. Chicken feed, starter, grower, and layer. People tell us how much better the hens lay on this, also longer. Rosie can even order chickens for you. We have two horse feeds. One is a special Ag West horse feed. This includes full fat soybean meal, my Rumen pack, Vitamins and trace minerals, we carry bagged Ag West cubes and pellets. Salt water salt. Woods chips, coarse, not saw dust, semi load lots I get, the cost is only \$5.25. Milk replacer, well liked, please price this compared to others. Bagged corn and oats, Rabbit food, Horse mineral blocks. Also remember my Range balancers work very well for horses, in some ways better then special horse minerals. Tire tanks for your cattle. Feed bunks.

I believe this is it, if not Rosie will remind me. Ha . Please, stop by, price and buy, and tell Rosie thanks. Okay?

Vince: The following article came out in the Kansas Cattlemens association newsletter. It was written by David and Ginny Pfrang. They gave me permission to print it. I think it expresses what we have to do to win.

As we come to the end of 2008, it's easy for me to dread the New Year. As far as politics goes, it's supposed to be a "time of change". I'll admit that sometimes change is good. But for me, I don't like change. Change is hard. It's not always comfortable.

There's a movie that came out several years ago called "The Lord of the Rings". As our girls have gotten a little bit older, they have come to enjoy the excitement of this movie series. There is a scene towards the end of the movie that I think fits our cattle industry pretty well. Mankind is preparing to go to battle against the opponent of ugly monsters and evil. The odds that mankind will survive are really, really small. The numbers against them are huge. The leader of the army is trying to rally the courage of his group. He's telling his troops that a day may come when their courage will fail. "But it is not this day!" Their shields will shatter and the age of mankind will fall. "But it is not this day! This day we fight!!"

As cattlemen sometimes it seems that we fight unbelievable odds" the weather, no profits, urban outlooks, livestock sickness and disease, ridiculous regulations, and the list goes on and on. It's easy to get discouraged and yes, afraid of what's ahead. Like that leader of the army of mankind, I'm here to encourage you. A day may come when you ask yourself, "What am I doing here? I could move to town and leave all these problems behind." **But it is not this day!!** A day may

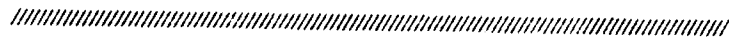
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come when you think the livestock industry looks like it's falling apart and all is lost. **But it is not this day!! This day we fight!!**

The army leader ended his speech by saying, **"By all that you hold dear on this good earth, I bid you stand with me!!"** KCA members, by all that you hold dear of this good earth, I bid you to stand with us!! Continue to stand with KCA! This day we fight' We fight by building our membership, by getting our friends, neighbors, and families to join us! We fight by making our voices heard in Washington!

Now more than ever I remind you that we're all in this together!
(By the way, the movie ended with the army of mankind defeating evil, just like we will—someday!!)

(Vince, I have joined the Kansas Cattlemens Assosiation, also Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota Stockgrowers, and of course The Independent Cattlemen of Ne. ICON. All of these organizations are strong fighters for R-Calf USA!!)



THE GUY (OR GAL) IN THE MIRROR

When you get what you want in your struggle for pelf,
And the world makes you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your Father, Mother, or Wife,
Who judgment upon you must pass.
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life,
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the feller to please, never mind all of the rest,
For he's with you clear up to the end,
And you've passed your dangerous, difficult test.
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

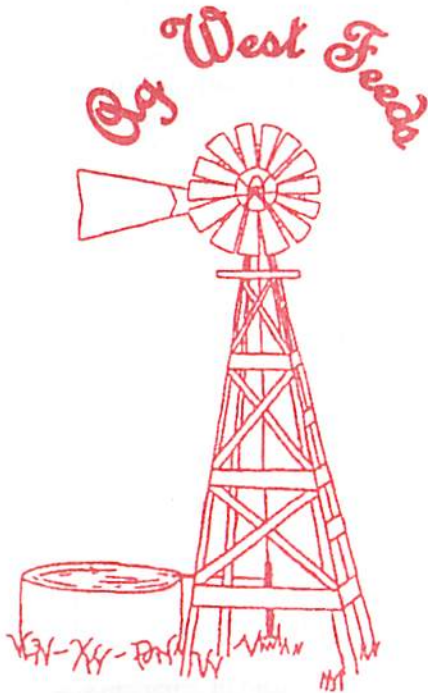
You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,
And you think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum,
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward will only be heartaches and tears,
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

(We really need to think about this. Can we look at ourselves and feel good? Honestly knowing, that we are true to ourselves, to others? To Jesus? Besides ourselves, let's look at our elected representatives, those that they appoint, whether Federal, State, or Local. If you look at these principals, how many of them should you vote for again? Do they follow our constitution as they swore to uphold? Do you? Do they love others as much as we do?)

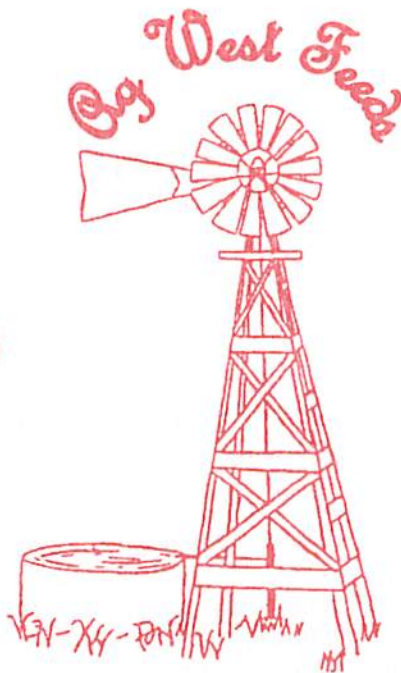
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Please stand with us in supporting
our Nebraska and National cattle
organizations that fight for your
way of life—raising Beef.



“It’s the finish that counts”

Ag-West Feeds, Inc.

Quality doesn’t cost—IT PAYS

American Beef It's What's For Dinner
Insist on American Beef from your supplier
C.O.O.L. (Country Of Origin Labeling)