



MAILBAG

January 2, 2013

Clover Creek 832-3458

Keystone Mill 832-3113

www.millhillag.com

Notes from Jim

King's Agriseeds Meeting



We are excited to partner with King's AgriSeeds to bring you a FREE forage production meeting in our area! Join us on Thursday, February 14th from 9am-3pm at the Williamsburg Farm Show Building. Some of the topics that will be discussed are crop rotations for profit, weed management, alfalfa, winter annual forages and summer annuals. We are also pleased to be hosting a special guest speaker at our meeting. Dr. William Curran is a Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at the Pennsylvania State University and has been a member of the faculty since 1990. Dr. Curran has an extension research split and has statewide responsibilities for weed management in agronomic crops. The days' other presenters are Tim Fritz, owner and general manager of King's AgriSeeds, Dave Wilson, King's Research Agronomist, Tracy Neff, King's Support Agronomist, and Dave Hunsberger, King's Regional Coordinator. Please RSVP to King's AgriSeeds at 717-687-6224 by February 7th so that we may provide lunch for you.

This month at Mill Hill

Winter is here, and Mill Hill will help you get through it!

Stop by Mill Hill for a sale on our line of Allied Precision sinking and floating tank deicers, bucket heaters, drain plug deicers, heated buckets and heated dog bowls. Now is when you need these products the most, and now is when you can save the most! Save up to 75% off these winter essential products! Plus, while you are here,

remember to stock up on gloves, hand warmers, Muck boots, heat tapes, hot chocolate, shovels and ice melting salt.

Dairy Recipe

From Tiffany Pheasant, 2012-2013 Blair County Dairy Princess

During the winter season, many families plan gatherings, where they share food and fun. One of my family's favorite snacks is Banana Bread. It is easy to make, and great tasting! We spend all day making sure our cattle are always provided with a nutritious diet and clean environment, because that leads to maximum production of high-quality milk. After a long day of tending to the cows, we enjoy sitting around the dinner table drinking cold glasses of milk with our Banana Bread.

Ingredients:

- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 8 TBSP (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temp
- 2 large eggs
- 3 ripe bananas
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt



Directions:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Butter a 9x 5x3" loaf pan. Cream the sugar and butter in a large mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. In a small bowl, mash the bananas with a fork. Mix in the milk and cinnamon. In another bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the banana mixture to the creamed mixture and stir until combined. Add dry ingredients, mixing just until flour disappears. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake 1 hour to 1 hour 10 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Set aside to cool on a rack for 15 minutes. Remove bread from pan, invert onto rack and cool completely before slicing. Spread slices with honey or serve with ice cream.

(Please read reverse side)

Your Calves, the Future of Your Herd!

By Marcia Itle

If you raise your own heifers, you're in charge of the future of your dairy herd.

Managing a dairy brings a large number of challenges on a daily basis; this in turn often results in overlooking the basics of raising calves. Getting your calves off to a good start can be the key to raising quality heifers.

So why start in the Dry Period.....

The first step to a healthy calf starts with the dry cow program. The goal of providing the calf with good quality colostrum to maximize passive immunity can best be achieved by providing dry cows with adequate protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. It's also a good idea to work with your veterinarian on a vaccination program that will enhance colostrum quality.

Why is colostrum so important?

The most important time of a newborn calf's life is the first 24 hours. When it comes to colostrum, a good rule of thumb is "the sooner, the better." Colostrum contains the needed antibodies (immunoglobulins) for the calf to acquire immunity, as well as vitamins and minerals.

What are the biggest environmental challenges for calves?

A calf's environment has a huge impact on health and performance. Keep equipment, utensils, hutches and employees as clean as possible. Make sure housing has adequate ventilation and is designed to reduce drafts. Bedding should obviously be clean, and soiled bedding should be removed as soon as possible. Winter brings on a whole new set of nutrition challenges. The thermoneutral zone for a calf is 50°-60° degrees Fahrenheit. Once the temperature drops below 50° F, additional energy is required, based on ambient temperature and the size of the calf. These energy needs can be met by feeding additional milk or milk replacer. Another option would be to increase calf starter intakes.

What about feed additives?

Organic trace minerals and selenium yeast in calf feed or milk replacer may be used to

support the animal's immune system and optimize the response to vaccinations. Used effectively in milk replacer and starter feeds, Bio-MOS can promote the nutritional status of the calf. By focusing on the basics of the dry cow program, colostrum quality and quantity, and time of administering, the calves' environment and choosing the correct feed additives, we can reach lifetime performance goals in our herds. Start each day with a task to keep calves healthy and growing for the next generation. A great place to start is developing protocols in each of these areas, and consulting with your nutritionist and veterinarian to make sure you're following the steps to true lifetime potential and performance.

