



Farm Services Ltd.

March Newsletter

Chesley, On

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Wood Pellets

Talk to Robin at 519-363-3308 about your wood pellet needs for the winter season!



Please note, the Store and Feed Desk will be closed Good Friday (March 30th) we will not be delivering bulk or bagged feeds on this day.

By-Product Update

Unfortunately the dried distiller shortage is on going and is expected to continue for the rest of the winter least. This shortage is effecting all users and suppliers in the livestock industry. We recommend that producers using distillers order a minimum of 4 days in advance so we can ensure that orders are met with a limited supply. Thank you for your cooperation.

Penninsula Creep Ration

Spring is coming and the cattle will be going on to pasture soon. It's time to start thinking about creep feeding your calves.

- Superior pellet quality
- Medicated with Rumensin or Deccox
- Contains 16% protein
- Easier weaning onto grower ration
- Helps growth weight stability of first calf heifers



Call today for information on our booking programs!

We Have All Your Winter Supplies!

- Shovels
- Hats and Gloves
- Boots

Windsor Safe-T-Salt!

Call now for skid pricing!

- 10kg bag
- 20kg bag



We carry a variety of Smart Lic Tubs!

Call 519-363-3308 and ask for Susan or Holly for more information.



We have an extensive supply of Feed Pro 5 ml silage covers in stock. Sizes available from 20' x 100' up to 80' x 200'.

FeedPro-G™
SILAGE COVERS 5



For more product information and to order Grand Harvest twine products call 519-363-3308

**Come see us at the London farm show March 7-9th !
Booth #308**

We will also be at Agri Fair April 10 and 11 at the Chesley Community Center.

Dry Cow Health

When thinking of and planning for incentives, many dairy farmers focus on two things: structuring breeding and calving so that more of the herd is milking during the summer months and decreasing heat stress and other hot weather factors that might negatively affect milk production. While focusing on the milking herd only seems logical to help fill incentives, spending some time in the dry cow barn can also lead to a more successful incentive season. Well managed dry cows calve in with fewer metabolic problems that set them up to eat well and subsequently milk well.

While it is widely accepted that one of the most successful dry cow strategies is to manage the far-off and close-up groups separately, many Canadian dairy farmers find it difficult to justify housing, feeding equipment, etc. for these two relatively small groups. There are, in fact, many advantages to managing dry cows in one group: with a larger group of animals, the possibility of using a TMR mixer is increased, allowing for alternative forages to be used (close-up topdresses can be added later) and a more homogenous diet to be delivered; the cows do not have to deal with feed changes and therefore rumen fluctuations throughout the dry period; and pens will not be changed, which decreases stress on already challenged animals.

Management should be strict with one-group dry cow systems to ensure success. Over-crowding should be avoided whenever possible to allow maximum intake of feed and decrease stress. The pen should be kept clean and well-bedded so that cows are comfortable. The feed bunk should be maintained such that sorting is reduced and intakes are consistent. Hoof care such as trimming and bathing should not be neglected during this time either; lame cows quickly lose body condition as they will not get up to eat as often if their feet are sore.

While a two-group dry cow management strategy should not be immediately dropped from consideration if herd numbers are adequate, a one-group strategy is certainly an excellent substitute for smaller farms. The dry cow program sets the cow up for lactation, and proper care and management are absolutely necessary to the success and profitability of the next lactation. By spending more time focusing on their dry cows now, a producer can set themselves up for a more successful Incentive season.