

Grant County Producer Update

By Tessa Osterbauer, Grant County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

CDC Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/downloadable-videos/downloadable-videos.html> Downloadable videos

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html> Animals and PPE

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html> Check list for getting ready

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html> FAQ

NDSU Resources:

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/alerts/coronavirus>

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmranchstress>

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Market Outlook in Response to COVID-19

North Dakota State University Extension will be hosting a series of agricultural economics webinars in response to COVID-19, says Frayne Olson, NDSU Extension crops economist. The webinar series started on Friday, March 27, at 12:30 p.m. Central time. The series will continue every Friday at 12:30 p.m. CT while the need for ag economics information continues. At the conclusion of the webinars, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions.

“This series is an opportunity to have continuing dialogue with agricultural producers, agribusinesses and those in the energy industry who want to understand more about how COVID-19 may impact North Dakota,” says Bryon Parman, NDSU Extension ag finance specialist. “Because the situation is changing rapidly, we felt it was important to continue to provide timely information and an opportunity for discussion.”

The webinar topics include possible North Dakota and regional economy implications, understanding current conditions and implementing an action plan, grain marketing information, spring planting decisions and the relationship between agriculture and energy.

The webinar presenters are:

Olson, Parman, Ron Haugen – NDSU Extension farm management specialist, Tim Petry – NDSU Extension livestock economist
David Ripplinger – NDSU Extension bioproducts/bioenergy economist,
For webinar login information and recordings of past webinars, visit <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/alerts/coronavirus>, or search for “NDSU Extension coronavirus.”

NDSU Extension to Continue Ag Economics Webinar Series in Response to COVID-19

Who should attend? Anyone in the agriculture, agribusiness or energy industry
When are the webinars? Every Friday at 12:30 p.m. Central time, beginning March 27
What are the topics? North Dakota and regional economy implications, understanding current conditions and implementing an action plan, grain marketing information, spring planting decisions and the relationship between agriculture and energy

For login information or to view the webinar recordings, visit
www.ag.ndsu.edu/alerts/coronavirus

NDSU EXTENSION

Diarrhea Can be Deadly to Calves

Cattle producers need to be on the lookout for calf diarrhea, according to North Dakota State University Extension livestock experts.

The majority of scours, or diarrhea, cases occur when calves are 3 to 16 days old. Untreated calves essentially die of shock from a loss of fluids and electrolyte imbalances.

A number of infections can cause viral and bacterial calf scours. Viral infections associated with calf diarrhea include rotavirus and coronavirus.

Rotavirus causes the calves' intestinal tract to secrete fluid into the intestinal tract, resulting in severe dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. The coronavirus destroys the cells lining the intestinal tract and causes malabsorption, resulting in severe diarrhea and lack of nutrient absorption.

- Neither of these viruses is associated with infections in people. *E. coli* and salmonella species are bacterial pathogens associated with calf diarrhea and can be associated with infections in people.

A different infectious organism called cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite that causes scours. Cryptosporidia usually are found in conjunction with other scours-causing bacteria or viruses and may cause infections in people as well.

"Unfortunately, this organism presents management problems as there is no vaccine or licensed therapeutic agent available," says NDSU Extension Veterinarian Gerald Stokka.

Conditions Leading to Scours

"Inadequate nutrition for the pregnant dam, particularly during the last third of gestation, as well as the calf's exposure to poor environmental conditions, insufficient attention to the newborn calf or a combination of these often result in scours outbreaks," says Karl Hoppe, Extension livestock systems specialist based at NDSU's Carrington Research Extension Center.

Not meeting the pregnant dam's energy and protein requirements will decrease the quality and quantity of the cow's colostrum. Colostrum is a form of milk that mammals produce in late pregnancy. It contains energy, protein, fat and vitamins, plus antibodies to protect newborns against disease until their own immune system is totally functional. Deficiencies in vitamins A and

E, and trace minerals have been associated with greater incidence of calf scours.

"Inadequate environment conditions, such as mud, overcrowding, contaminated lots, calving heifers and cows together, wintering and calving in the same area,

storms, heavy snow, cold temperatures and rainfall are all stressful to the newborn calf and increase its exposure to infectious agents," says Janna Block, Extension livestock systems specialist based at NDSU's Hettinger Research Extension Center.

"Attention to the newborn calf is essential, particularly during difficult births or adverse weather conditions," Stokka advises. "The calf is born without most antibodies, including those that fight the infectious agents that cause scours. The calf will acquire these antibodies only from colostrum. Because of this, any effort to prevent scours by vaccinating cows is wasted unless the calf actually receives colostrum, preferably before it is 2 to 6 hours old." he adds. "Colostrum given to calves that are more than 24 to 36 hours old will be less than ideal as antibodies are seldom absorbed this late in life."

Treating Scours

"The key to successful treatment is identifying and successfully treating a dehydrated animal early," Stokka says.

Calves that have lost significant amounts of fluid will have skin that "tents" (stays up for more than 3 seconds when you pull it away from the body), a dry mouth, cold ears and sunken eyeballs. They often have low blood sugar, low body temperature and low urine output, and decreased blood electrolyte (sodium, potassium, bicarbonate, chloride) levels that adversely affect organ function, particularly the heart. They are visibly depressed.

The critical first step in treating cases of calf scours is correcting dehydration and electrolyte loss. Antibiotics can be administered if your veterinarian deems it to be appropriate.



The key to treating a calf with scours is to identify the problem and treat the animal early. (NDSU photo)

Continued...Diagnosing Scours

- Consult your veterinarian about collecting appropriate samples.
- Send samples to a laboratory as early as possible.
- If your veterinarian is not available, collect a fresh fecal sample from an untreated calf. Place this sample in a sterile plastic container and submit it to the lab chilled for analysis.
- If you have a dead animal, submit it to the lab within 24 hours of death.

Prevention Strategies

- Maximize the calves' ingestion of colostrum immediately after birth. When necessary, use colostrum from cows in the same herd or colostrum replacement products.
- Maintain the cows' proper nutrition and body condition.
- Minimize the dose of an infectious agent to which the calf is exposed through sanitation.
- Minimize the density of susceptible calves. Spread them out if possible.
- Keep calving premises clean and dry.
- Isolate sick animals. Quarantine them and don't commingle them with uninfected calves.
- Do not bring in 1- to 5-day-old calves from neighbors or that were purchased at an auction market.
- Sanitize equipment.

Producers Shouldn't Change Planting Plans

The current markets are not a good way to make decisions about planting.

Producers should not change their spring planting intentions because of the coronavirus outbreak, according to North Dakota State University Extension crops economist Frayne Olson.

"Don't change your plans based on what you see in the markets today because it's not going to be a good reference point," he says.

Livestock, grain and energy, mainly oil, prices and the stock market have dropped so dramatically because of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, and not because of a supply and demand issue, he notes. This situation is unprecedented, so people don't know what to expect and tend to think of the worst-case scenario.

"Right now, this is a psychological battle," Olson says.

The market volatility likely will continue until the number of new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. starts to decline, he believes. That's when people will feel that the worst is over. But producers shouldn't expect conditions to improve quickly.

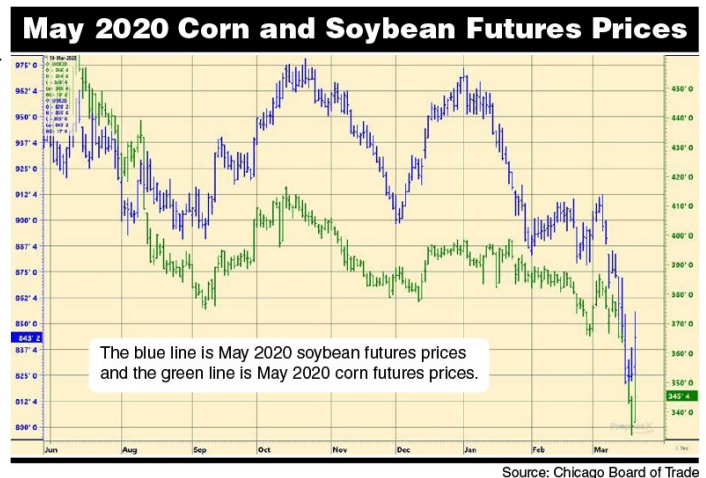
"It's still going to be a slow process," Olson cautions.

Energy and grain prices probably will recover more quickly than livestock prices, he says. Livestock prices likely will rebound more slowly than the other two because of consumer behavior, such as how quickly they are willing to return to eating at restaurants. The stock market will be the last to recover.

In the meantime, despite the low prices, some producers may need to sell grain they have in storage because they need the money or the quality of the grain is deteriorating.

"For those who have to sell, go ahead and sell," Olson advises.

The lowest risk strategy is to buy a call option if producers want to take advantage when prices start to rebound, he says. However, producers will need to select a broker to work with and set up an account if they don't already have one. He also recommends producers do a bit of research so they understand call options.



May 2020 Corn and Soybean Futures Prices

Corner Office Musings on Current Events

By: Tessa Osterbauer, Grant County Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent

To quote Chicken Little, “The sky is falling! A piece of it just hit you on the head! Now be calm. Don't get panicky. “ Our current situation may feel a lot like the sky is falling, and we're powerless to stop it . What can we possibly do to control the impact of something so vast as the “sky”?

Well, the truth is there isn't much we can do but continue. One thing that I have discovered I admire so much about agriculture is its resiliency. And the farmer and rancher's ability to continue no matter what may be thrown their way, even be it a “falling sky.”

Coming off of a wet fall, a never ending harvest, terrible market outlooks, into a flooded spring and a national pandemic, the farming and ranching communities continue to prepare for a 2020 crop, feed their livestock and doctor newborn calves.

I am incredibly proud of our industry in times like these and my heart goes out to those affected by these challenging times.

However, now is the time to be calm, or to not, “get panicky.” Follow CDC guidelines and prac-

tice social distancing , do your part to help prevent the spread.

Stay home when you can, and fact check the things you hear about COVID-19 with your healthcare providers.

Maybe, just maybe, the sky isn't falling. And we'll look up and realize it was a branch that hit us on the head, not a piece of the sky.

Yes it was a large branch and it hurt, but we survived and we came out stronger than ever.

I encourage you all to take the time to enjoy the isolation with your families and build those relationships you already have.

Farmer's and ranchers are professionals when it comes to social distancing and self-isolation,

they've been doing it their whole life!

I know it feels a lot like where building the plane while flying it, but somehow we're doing it and we're making it work.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change." - Charles Darwin

Remember, following the commissioners directives, our Extension office is closed to the public. Still, staff are available and here to answer any questions you may have. We're here for you, just from a distance of at least six feet. Stay healthy and God bless!



We love to hear your ideas and feedback! If you have any comments, questions, concerns or just want to talk please feel free to contact me, Tessa (Keller) Osterbauer at the Extension Office, 701-622-3470 or email Tessa.osterbauer@ndsu.edu.