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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vitamin Shortage?

I was recently reading through some of the many e-mail and newsletters that I receive that discuss beef and feeding. I thought this was interesting and decided to pass it along. It was in the Beef Blog and was from the Tri-State Livestock News. It was written by Amanda Radke. For the entire article go to the BeefBlog.com and it appeared in the December 26 edition.

A shortage of Vitamin A and E may significantly spike the cost of certain feeds and minerals in the upcoming months. According to Feedinfo News Service, "Currently, supply to the market is extremely tight with concerns that some premixers may face a physical shortage during the coming weeks."

This shortage is due to an Oct. 31, 2017 fire at BASF's citral plant in Germany. BASF is the second-largest Vitamin A producer in the world, serving 26 percent of the global Vitamin A feed grade sector.

Feedinfo News Service reports, "The global Vitamin A feedgrade market was already tight before the fire. Vitamin A output in China was significantly disrupted during the summer as a result of inspections relating to environmental issues and new regulations. In addition, the world's largest Vitamin A producer DSM announced that they would undergo extended maintenance shutdowns during 2017 and late 2018. They told customers that product availability would be affected as a result."

With just three independent supply chains on the global market, 40-50 percent of the market has been impacted, and according to Feeding News Service, "based on the above factors the global Vitamin A feedgrade market is expected to remain extremely difficult until at least end of the first half of 2018."

"Mineral feeds in April (200,000 – 400,000 IU/lb) had a estimated vitamin A cost per bag of \$.44-.84 cents per bag in April compared to \$4.44 – 8.40 per bag by late-November," said Kevin Glaubius, director of nutrition for Biozyme Inc. "Right now, no one really knows what will price be later this spring, but we have had some recent quotes that would potentially double those costs again."

Glaubius said the real unknown right now is if a mill is out of A or E, is it going to be available and if so at what price? Mills have begun to ration usage in a number of ways some by reducing levels and/or restricting purchases.

A nutritionist can assist with feed testing, ration balancing and consultations to get the most out of every bite. Back at home on the ranch, Medenwald is compensate for this price spike by feeding as high of quality hay as possible through the winter months and turning cows out to grass early in the spring if necessary.



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"A shortage of nutrients could impact herd health significantly, and if mineral prices continue to rise, it will be increasingly important to know what's available in your inventory of feedstuffs," Medenwald said. "A cow won't tell you what she's short on, so testing your feeds and using the best minerals we can will ensure she is offered an adequate diet that meets her nutrient requirements."

Registration for Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certs

There are going to be several changes with the registration for the local Pesticide and Fertilizer re-certifications this year. The dates are listed below, but the registration is not. I hope to have this all resolved in the next week or two. Please hold off on registering until mid-January so the training can be done and the changes all in place. I will let you know.

Farmer's Tax Guides

Farmer's Tax Guides are here. Stop by the office if you need one. They are still free.

Dates to Remember

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| Jan. 8 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register by calling ODA at 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| Feb. 20 | Adams Co. Pesticide Re-certification at Frisch's starting at 5:00 p.m. 3 hours of Pesticide and 1 hour of Fertilizer Re-certification. Must Pre-register. |
| Feb. 28 | Brown Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern Hills Board Office at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |
| Mar. 2 | Highland Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |