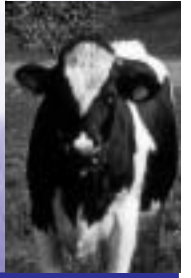




White Oak Mills

# Dairy News Leaf

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## White Oak Dauphin and Lebanon County Farm Meetings Slated

White Oak will hold two March regional dairy meetings:

### **Thursday, March 5 -- 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

#### **Ivan & Elizabeth Kauffman Farm**

301 Garden Spot Road, Lykens, PA (Dauphin County)

- **DCAD and Fresh Cow Management**  
-- Dr. Dave Kirk, Prince Agri Products
- **Cow Comfort**  
-- Dr. Joy Lenker, Great Creatures Vet Services

### **Friday, March 6 -- 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

#### **Dale Zimmerman Farm**

299 N. Locust Street, Myerstown, PA (Lebanon County)

- **DCAD and Fresh Cow Management**  
-- Dr. Dave Kirk, Prince Agri Products
- **Vital 90™ Days**  
-- Dr. Brian Reed, Agricultural Veterinary Assoc.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9:30 AM. Lunch will conclude each meeting. Transportation is available. To register for either meeting, please RSVP to your White Oak Dairy Specialist. These meetings are designed to benefit all dairy producers, so please feel free to invite a neighboring dairy. Meanwhile, White Oak is planning additional farm meetings in April. Watch for details! 🌱

## Producer Spotlight | Hillside Farm Lykens, PA

Nestled in Lykens Valley in northern Dauphin County, PA, Hillside Farm is operated by Ivan and Elizabeth Kauffman. The Kauffmans are third-generation dairy farmers and currently milk 58 grade Holsteins with a herd average of 25,671 pounds of milk, 3.9 butterfat and 3.1 protein. The cows are milked in a 50-cow tie stall barn with mattresses and tunnel ventilation utilized to improve herd comfort. While the Kauffmans have been dairy farming over the past 13 years, they settled at their current location in May 2013.

Corn, alfalfa, and small grains for forage are grown on the 95 acre rented farm. Forages are stored in two stave silos, ag bags and as wrapped burlage. Making quality forage is a top priority for Hillside Farm. Ivan's motto is "take care of the cows, and they will take care of you." His success is rooted in this belief.

As a White Oak customer, Ivan appreciates the attention to detail and emphasis on herd performance by his nutritionist Dairy Specialist Steve Snyder. Working with White Oak since August 2013, the herd average has

shown an increase of 1,900 pounds of milk, 50 pounds of fat and 69 pounds of protein. The Kauffmans buy White Oak's 700 Calf Starter 18%, 705 Calf Grower 16%, a custom heifer concentrate, a custom dry cow feed as well as a custom concentrate and top dress for the milking herd. In addition to the nutrition services, Ivan says he enjoys White Oak's timely delivery and courteous, respectful customer service.



*Hillside Farm -- rented and operated by Ivan and Elizabeth Kauffman*

Hillside Farm will host White Oak's upcoming annual farm meeting on March 5. Ivan and Elizabeth, along with their seven children (two boys and five girls), welcome you to their farm. White Oak appreciates the Kauffmans willingness to share their farm with other dairymen for a half-day of education and fellowship. 🌱

## White Oak Adds New Corn Receiving and Transfer System

White Oak recently added 300,000 bushels of grain storage at its Elizabethtown, PA feed manufacturing facility and is now implementing a new corn receiving and transfer system. The new

system, located on the hill behind the mill, will allow White Oak to receive bulk ingredients more efficiently using two separate receiving areas. The project will be completed by mid-February. 🏗️



White Oak's 300,000 bushels of grain storage and new corn receiving and transfer system

## Transition and the Vital 90™ Days

The dairy cow transition period has traditionally been defined as the period three weeks pre-calving to three weeks post-calving. An expanded period including the entire dry period, The Vital 90™ Days -- 60 days pre-calving to 30 days post-calving -- more completely encompasses the actual period when physiological and nutritional adjustments determine if a successful subsequent lactation will be achieved.

**60 days** before calving + **30 days** after calving

Numerous physiological and metabolic changes (transitions) occur during the dairy cow's dry and early lactation periods, including:

- Cessation of milking at dry-off
- Environment and ration changes
- Rapid fetal growth
- Decline in dry matter intake just prior to calving
- Initiation of colostrum production
- Hormonal changes, including declining progesterone and rising estrogen blood levels
- The process of giving birth
- Rapid increase in milk production

Along with physiological adjustments associated with transition, energy requirements essentially double at the time of calving. The physiologic

and metabolic changes occurring during transition also negatively affect immune function in the transition cow.

Disease conditions that occur in the first 30 days of lactation often result from physiological changes and management decisions made during the prior 60 days. These diseases include those associated with negative energy balance or immune suppression. Common transition cow disease conditions associated with immune suppression include retained placenta, metritis, and mastitis. Those associated with excessive negative energy balance include displaced abomasum, ketosis, and ovarian dysfunction (cystic ovarian disease or prolonged anestrus).

Dairy producers expend considerable time and financial resources in an attempt to assure that the dairy cow has a successful dry period and transition into early lactation. Failure during this period leads to an increased incidence of disease and death loss.

In addition, transition disease problems result in tangible and intangible consequences. The most obvious tangible consequence is

financial loss. Intangible consequences include dealing with the stress and frustration associated with higher morbidity and mortality. Prevention of disease problems during The Vital 90 Days has the obvious tangible economic benefits but also intangible benefits of improved confidence and peace of mind.

**Conclusion:** Most metabolic and infectious diseases occurring during early lactation are directly or indirectly attributable to events during The Vital 90 Days. Management decisions during this period are key drivers for a cow's health, well being, and success in the subsequent lactation. Focusing on The Vital 90 Days can lead to a higher likelihood for greater profitability and long-term success in your dairy operation.

Talk to your White Oak Dairy Specialist to develop specific strategies for your cows in this important period. Also, Dr. Brian Reed will discuss The Vital 90 Days at White Oak's March 6 Lebanon County Dairy Meeting. 🏡

*This article was written with excerpts from an Elanco presentation shared at a recent dairy nutrition conference titled "The Vital 90™ Days and Why It's Important to a Successful Lactation." Ask your White Oak Dairy Specialist for more information. Vital 90™ is a trademark of Eli Lilly & Company*

