

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Cow-Calfenomics

November 20th
DMI, Fairview
9:30-3:30

Hear from experts in the field on managing the financial aspect of your cow-calf herd, including some new information on opportunities to decrease risk and improve return.

Western Canadian Grazing Conference

Nov. 27th-29th
Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer

Kitchen Courses for New CowBytes!

Producers who would like help or would like to use the updated version to plan their winter feeding program can contact PCBFA for help.

REMEMBER:

Members get 2 free feed tests per year!
Contact Morgan @ 835-6799

DECEMBER

Social Media

Using Facebook, Twitter etc to gain industry information and improve business profitability. And finally figuring out how to use "that device" for more than talking to people!

Young Farmer Round Tables

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compared to a more typical 4 or 5 thousand. With the JBS announcement, yearling prices are recovering and feedlot operators expect to move more cattle soon. There is still more feedlot and slaughter capacity in North America than there are cattle and producers can most likely expect a full recovery to pre-crisis prices once this temporary glut has moved out of the feedlot system.

Long Term

JBS-USA owns a slaughter facility at Hiram, Utah, and many Canadian feedlots sell to that plant. So, a take-over of Lakeside ultimately means one less buyer in the marketplace. It is somewhat confusing that JBS-USA is contemplating purchasing more feedlot and slaughter capacity when feedlots and packers in both Canada and the USA are not able to fill to their capacity. However, with several years of lower kill numbers in the USA, it may make sense for a company to work across both sides of the border to source either live animals or primal cuts and avoid bidding against its other plants. Conjecture behind why JBS is contemplating this move is running wild and in reality, it's anyone's guess. A potential risk is that if the USA herd grows, the Canadian herd (being smaller and farther away) will take second priority for sourcing.

Many are perceiving that JBS has broken up the vertical integration of the Nilsson Brothers in Western Canada (the Brothers owned a number of auction marts, the 75,000 head Brooks feedlot and 3 operating slaughter plants at one point). Seeing as the Canadian Competition Bureau permitted that degree of vertical integration back in 2009, when the Brothers bought the plant for a recorded \$145 million USD, whose to say they won't permit it again with a new multi-national in town? Subsequent vertical integration could be unprecedented. That said, JBS is known for its aggression and may do a better job at competing with Cargill for Canadian cattle. *At this point, many questions remain: Will JBS buy the plant? Will it keep it open? Will the Investment Canada Act and the Competition Bureau allow it? What else is going to happen?*

Many thanks to Brenda Shoepf (Beef Link TM), Brian Perillat (CanFax) and Wayne Forbes (Jubilee Feedlot) for providing insight and expertise to this article. Many facts and insights are also rightfully attributed to the investigative prowess of Sheri Monk (sherimonk.com).

Can YOU prevent E. coli? No, but you can reduce contamination risk by doing the following:

Adopt a vaccination program of O157 reduction - a Canadian approved vaccine developed by Bioniche Life Sciences Inc. called Econich™ helps to reduce O157 shedding. Consulting your local veterinarian is recommended.

Keep watering sources free of manure - water sources can act as vectors in the spread of O157 from animal to animal. Be sure to drain and clean water bowls/troughs if they have been soiled with manure.

Be aware of equipment used for handling feed and removing manure - equipment can also spread O157 from animal to animal. Machinery that is used to move manure should be cleaned before being used to move feed. If that isn't possible, having equipment designated for either feeding or manure handling is recommended.

Use adequate bedding to keep hides free of excess tag - market cattle that have excess tag are high risk carriers. Meat contamination can occur in two ways 1) a knife splitting the hide that is contaminated by passing through tag can then carry on to the carcass 2) if a hide is pulled in a moist environment on the kill floor, tag particles can become airborne and have the potential to cross-contaminate all surfaces. An adequate amount of clean bedding can help to reduce tag accumulation.

Prepare cattle for shipping to slaughter - shrink cattle for 12 to 24 hours before shipping. Reducing gut fill will reduce manure excretion in holding pens and loaded trucks. Low stress cattle handling will also reduce manure production.

Clean trucks - load cattle onto clean trucks with adequate bedding.

By following these practices and the interventions put in place by the packers, these steps will collectively reduce the risk of product contamination with E. coli O157:H7!

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