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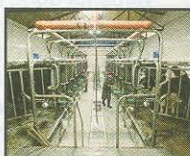
Spraying

Unmanned helicopter tested for spraying inter field crops
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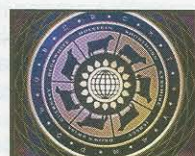
Research

More investment in ag crucial to future prosperity
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Safety

Consortium looks at dairy worker health, safety issues
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Expo

Theme, schedule for World Dairy Expo announced
 Pages 16-17

Quality
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Tyson bars cattle fed beta-agonist

By ANDY VANCE

NOT even four hours after the beef checkoff adjourned a symposium on the topic of beta-agonists, news surfaced that Tyson Fresh Meats, the country's second-largest beef processor, had banned one of two beta-agonist products fed to U.S. cattle.

In a letter to cattle feeders, Tyson said it would no longer accept cattle fed zilpaterol hydrochloride as of Sept. 6.

Citing animal welfare concerns, Tyson said it would suspend purchases of cattle fed the supplement, marketed by Merck under the brand name Zilmax, as an interim measure while the company assesses animal welfare concerns related to the additive.



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EPA finalizes RFS levels for 2013

By JACQUI FATKA

THE Environmental Protection Agency finalized the 2013 percentage standards for four fuel categories within the renewable fuel standard (RFS) established by Congress in 2007.

The final 2013 overall volumes and standards require 16.55 billion gal. of renewable fuels to be blended into the U.S. fuel supply (a 9.74% blend).

EPA did not reduce the overall required amount that petroleum refiners and importers must blend but now will only require 6 million gal. of cellulosic ethanol to be blended into the fuel supply this year, down from the 14 million gal. it

Key Points

- Cellulosic ethanol requirement dropped to just 6m gal.
- EPA proposes using RFS flexibilities to address impending blend wall.
- Congress examining ways to adjust RFS.

had proposed in February.

A January 2013 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals required the agency to re-evaluate projections for cellulosic biofuels to reflect market conditions. EPA said the final 2013 standard for cellulosic biofuels announced Aug. 6 was devel-

oped in a manner consistent with the approach outlined in that ruling.

The EPA rule completed last Tuesday also finalizes an earlier proposal requiring that 2.75 billion gal. of advanced biofuels (1.62%) be blended into the U.S. fuel supply this year. Under the RFS, advanced biofuels must reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% compared with petroleum fuels.

Biodiesel is the first and only advanced biofuel under the program to reach commercial-scale production nationwide and the first to break 1 billion gal. of annual volume.

With nearly 1.1 billion gal. of

output last year, the National Biodiesel Board said the biodiesel industry produced enough fuel to fulfill 87% of the total advanced biofuel requirement in 2012 and "is on pace to fill a majority of the requirement again this year."

However, ethanol imports from Brazil have also been used to help meet the advanced biofuel requirement of the RFS. So, while the U.S. is exporting its ethanol to Brazil, Brazil is also exporting its ethanol to the U.S., which flies in the face of trying to increase domestic energy independence.

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MAILED DATE: August 10, 2013

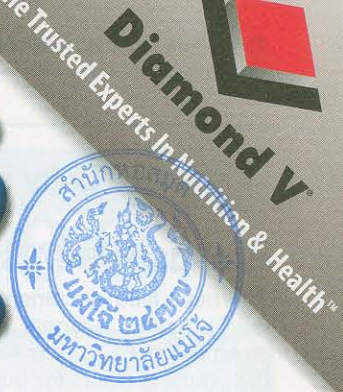
PROBLEM

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Children

USDA releases estimate of cost of raising a child Page 5



Antibiotics

Chipotle may be more flexible on antibiotic protocol Page 6



GMOs

Plant biotech companies launch GMO Answers website Page 9



Fertility

Y chromosome of cattle may affect herd fertility Pages 14-15

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Farmland bubble still inflating

By ANDY VANCE

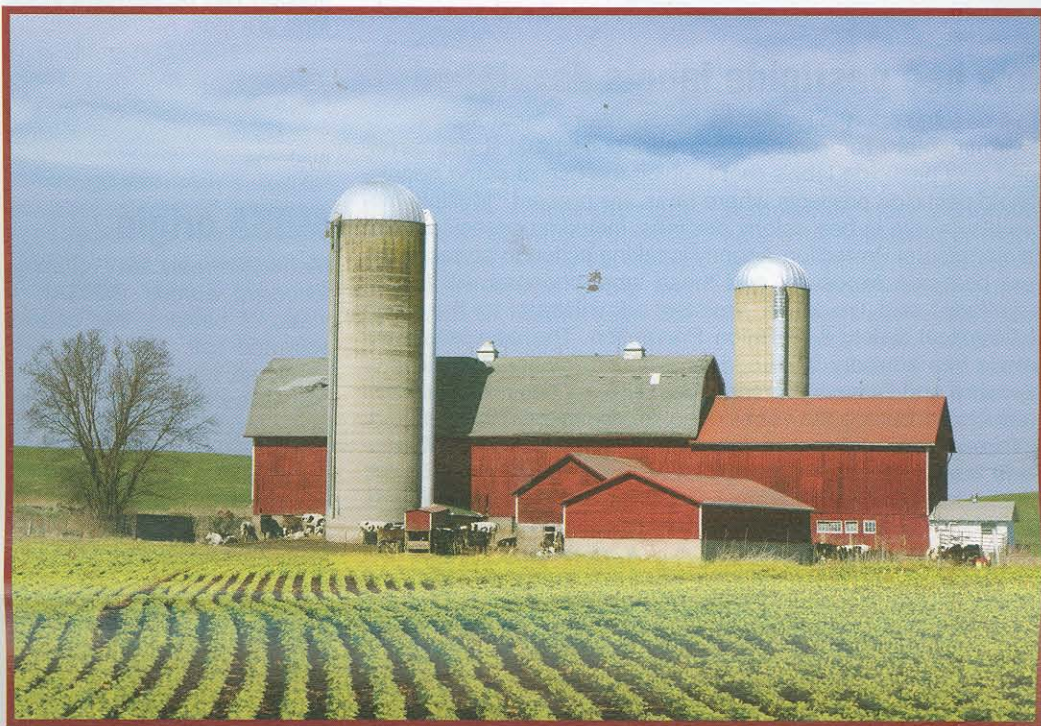
DESPITE falling incomes, the price farmers are willing to pay for farmland continues to increase, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (KC-Fed).

With commodity prices moderating considerably in 2013, the question of "if" a perceived agricultural bubble might burst has morphed into "when?"

Speaking at the KC-Fed's annual agriculture symposium in July, Purdue University economist Michael Boeijl said unequivocally that the agricultural economy is exhibiting signs of a bubble, particularly in the land market.

"Is this a bubble?" he asked the audience of lenders and finance professionals. "Yes. The question is: What's the bust?"

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New cattle virus will help rule out BSE

By TIM LUNDEEN

A NEW virus that causes neurologic symptoms reminiscent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been identified and its genome sequenced by a team of researchers that includes scientists at the University of California-Davis.

While this particular new virus is unlikely to pose a threat to human health or the food supply, the new findings are "critically important because they provide researchers with a relatively simple diagnostic tool that can reassure both ranchers and consumers" by ruling out BSE as the cause of

Key Points

- Neurologic diseases hard to diagnose in cattle.
- Newly discovered astrovirus causes unique tissue abnormality.
- Astroviruses implicated in other neurologic conditions.

neurologic symptoms when they appear in cattle, the announcement said.

Results of the study appear online in the September issue of the *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal*, published by the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control & Prevention.

"Neurologic disease in cattle can be difficult to diagnose because there are a number of different causes, and pre-mortem sampling and analyses can be cumbersome and/or expensive," said Patricia Pesavento, a veterinary pathologist in the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and corresponding author on the paper.

"Understanding the role of this virus is crucial for veterinarians as well as for the dairy and beef cattle industries," she said. "Additionally, finding new viruses helps us identify other, more remote viruses be-

cause it builds our knowledge of both the depth and breadth of viral family trees."

In this new study, the researchers analyzed brain tissue from a yearling steer with neurologic symptoms of unknown cause. Through this analysis, they discovered a new virus that belongs to the astrovirus family. Further study of brain tissue samples preserved from earlier examinations of 32 cattle with unexplained neurologic symptoms revealed the presence of this astrovirus in three of those animals, the announcement said.

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Food

Price still tops consumer food purchasing factors
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Virus

Pork industry groups work to contain PEDV
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Suppliers

Feedstuffs profiles feed ingredient suppliers
Pages 17-19



Wheat

Wheat gene found that prevents pre-harvest sprouting
Page 20

COOL rule challenges continue

Canada and Mexico request WTO compliance panel to review U.S. country-of-origin labeling law revision.

By JACQUI FATKA

NEARLY three months after a new country-of-origin labeling (COOL) rule was published by the U.S., the governments of Canada and Mexico have formally requested the establishment of a World Trade Or-

ganization compliance panel to review the U.S. law.

First conceptualized as part of the 2002 farm bill and later reworked in the 2008 farm bill, the labeling law calls for the country of origin to be identified on meat products sold in the U.S.

Canada and Mexico successfully challenged the trade-distorting aspects of the COOL law at WTO, forcing the U.S. to go back to the drawing board with an updated rule earlier this year.

Andrea Mead, spokesperson for the U.S. Trade Representative, said the U.S. is disappointed that Canada and

Mexico have decided to litigate this matter further and "strongly believe" that the WTO panel will agree with the U.S. in its latest rule.

The most recent revisions call for more specific details. Origin designations for muscle cut covered commodities derived from animals slaughtered in the U.S. are now required to specify the production steps of birth, raising and slaughter of the animal from which the meat is derived that took place in each country listed on the origin designation.

"We are confident that these changes will improve the

overall operation of the program while also bringing the current COOL requirements into compliance," Mead said.

According to a joint statement Aug. 19 from Canadian Trade Minister Ed Fast and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, Canada had hoped to avoid having to resort to WTO again to resolve this matter.

"However, despite consistent rulings by the WTO, the U.S. government continues its unfair trade practices, which are severely damaging to Canadian industry and jobs," they said.

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Farm balance sheets strong

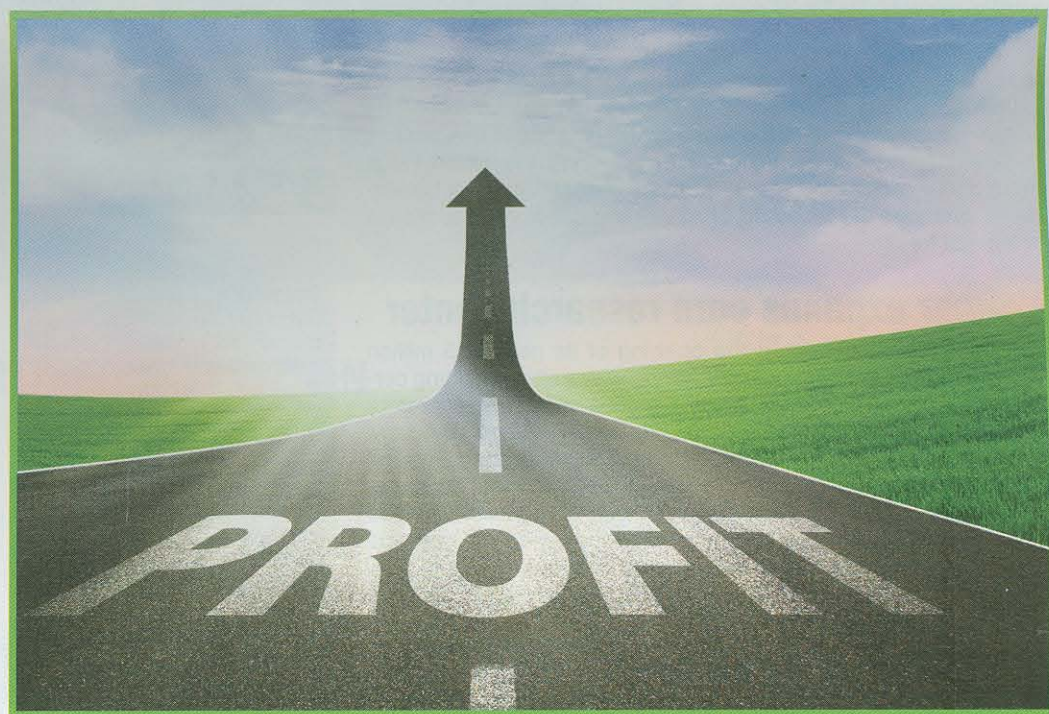
By ANDY VANCE

RETURNING to trendline yields may pressure corn and soybean prices for some time to come, but according to the latest update from Fitch Ratings, the farm sector still remains a smart investment heading into 2014.

All indications are that farmers' net incomes and even net worth are likely to fall from recent record levels, but the analyst sees reason for optimism.

"We believe that generally prudent underwriting practices by lenders in the Farm Credit System (FCS) have mitigated risks of a sharp rise in credit losses, even if crop prices remain depressed," the ratings service said in a late-August statement.

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