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Technology

New canola meal website, canolamazing.com, launched

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The **Dairy Site** 13/01/2014. The Canola Council of Canada has launched of Canolamazing.com, a new website showcasing the facts and firsthand accounts of using canola meal for **dairy** rations. Canolamazing is designed to educate **dairy** producers about their options when it comes to protein sources for **dairy** rations. Soybean meal has long dominated the protein market as a mainstay in the **dairy** market, but recent canola meal research busts this accepted norm. When it comes to rumen undegradable protein, canola meal is 16% more efficient than soybean meal at getting protein past the rumen, where it can be absorbed and used to produce milk¹. "The goal of Canolamazing is to both elevate the conversation about protein options for **dairy** producers, as well as raise awareness of canola meal as a whole," says Bruce Jowett, vice president of Market Development for the Canola Council of Canada. "Canola meal can provide great options to **dairy** producers, but many producers don't know that canola meal is even available to them, or already in their ration."

Antibiotics

White paper on complexities of antibiotic resistance issues

The **Dairy Site** 13/01/2013. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has published a White Paper on its recent symposium on antimicrobial use and resistance. NIAA highlights two main points in the White Paper: Point A: The science behind the emergence, amplification, persistence and transfer of antibiotic resistance is highly complex and open to interpretation - and sometimes misinterpretation - from a wide variety of perspectives and misuse. If you think you understand antimicrobial resistance, it has not been explained properly to you. Point B: The extremely complex relationship between animal health, human health and environmental health is driven by two premises: 1) Antimicrobial resistance is a naturally occurring phenomenon that is present with or without the use of antimicrobials, and 2) Anytime an antibiotic enters the ecosystem, it has the potential to contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.

Economics

Rising input costs erode price gains for Irish farmers

The Meat **Site** 13/01/2014. The Outlook/Review 2014 undertaken by IFA Economist Kevin Kilcline shows National Farm Income in 2013 is estimated to have risen by 2.4% on 2012. Output volumes are estimated to have risen significantly for the **dairy** and cereals sector, while there was also some increase in volumes for cattle, sheep and poultry. The dreadful weather conditions experienced in the first six months of 2013 resulted in significantly higher input costs with both price and volume increases for feed and fertiliser. Kevin Kilcline says, "The past number of years has seen a significant increase in product prices; however, the gains from this have been almost totally eroded by increases in input prices. Since 2005, farm input costs have increased by 42% while general inflation has risen by approximately 13%."

World food prices stay high, but steady

The Meat **Site** 14/01/2014. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 206.7 points in December, nearly unchanged from the previous month, with a sharp increase in **dairy** prices and high meat values

balancing out a steep decline in sugar quotations and lower cereal and oil prices. For 2013 as a whole, the index averaged 209.9 points - down 1.6% from 2012, and well below 2011's peak of 230.1, but still the third highest annual value on record. Large supplies pushed down international prices of cereals (with the exception of rice), oils and sugar. However, **dairy** values peaked in 2013, and meat also hit a record. "Last month, the FAO Food Price Index remained elevated as strong demand for certain high-protein foods continued to drive up prices overall, countering falling prices of major food crops after last year's abundant harvests," says FAO economist Abdolreza Abbassian. FAO's FPI is a trade-weighted index that measures prices of five major food commodities on international markets: cereals, **dairy** products, meat, sugar, and vegetable oils.

Food Safety

Officials punished for food safety scandals

The Meat **Site** 13/01/2014. Eight suspects involved in five food safety incidents have been transferred to judicial organs and another 46 officials have been punished for neglect of duty. In one case, more than 25,000 kilograms of pork from sick pigs was **purchased**, cooked and **sold** by vendors in east **China's** Anhui Province, with a sales value of 80,000 yuan, according to a statement released by the ministry. In another case, nine officials have been punished for inadequate supervision after a highly toxic pesticide was found to have been used in the planting of ginger by farmers in east **China's** Shandong Province, it says. The ministry urged Govts at all levels to draw lessons from the food safety scandals and harshly crack down on food-related crimes.

Improved method to detect salmonella on eggs

The Meat **Site** 13/01/2014. Researchers with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have tested an improved method for the detection of Salmonella on eggs, which is quicker, less complicated and gave as good or better results in most of the tests. The current FDA Bacteriological Analytical Manual (BAM) method for the detection of Salmonella in eggs requires two weeks to complete, according to Guodong Zhang of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration in College **Park**, Maryland. In a paper in Poultry Science, Zhang and colleagues explain the objective of their project was to improve the BAM method for the detection and isolation of Salmonella in whole shell eggs. A novel protocol, using 1,000 g of liquid eggs for direct pre-enrichment with two litres of tryptic soy broth (TSB) followed by enrichment using Rappaport-Vassiliadis and Tetrathionate broths, was compared with the standard BAM method, which requires 96 hours room temperature incubation of whole shell egg samples followed by pre-enrichment in TSB supplemented with ferrous sulphate (FeSO₄). Four Salmonella ser. Enteritidis (four phage types) and one Salmonella ser. Heidelberg isolates were used in the study. Bulk inoculated pooled liquid eggs, weighing 52 or 56kg - approximately 1,100 eggs - were used in each trial. Twenty 1,000-g test portions were withdrawn from the pooled eggs for both the alternative and the reference methods.

Tyson recalls mechanically separated chicken

The Meat **Site** 14/01/2014. US poultry processing giant Tyson Foods is voluntarily recalling 33,840 pounds of uncooked mechanically separated chicken in 10-pound chubs **sold** for institutional use only. The product was produced exclusively for and distributed to a small number of institutional customers. It is not available to the general public and is not **sold** in stores or restaurants. A sample of the product analysed by the Tennessee Department of Health was found to contain Salmonella Heidelberg. Seven confirmed illnesses which occurred in early December are potentially linked to the product. According to USDA, some people who consumed entrees prepared with the product at a correctional facility became ill.

Beef

China surge pushes beef export value

The Land 15/01/2014. An easing Aust dollar helped push Australian beef and veal export values up 26% year-on-year during November 2013, to reach \$560m, with the export volume over the same period up only 11%, at 99,802 tonnes swt. Meat and Livestock Australia reports shipments to Japan for November were valued at \$132m, steady year-on-year, despite the volume declining 10% from the corresponding period, to 25,005 tonnes swt. The market values to Korea (\$89m) and the US (\$87m) were up 22% and 15% year-on-year, respectively, while the surge in tonnage to **China** saw its export value increase 171% over the period, to \$81m. Similarly, the surge in exports to Indonesia in the penultimate month of 2013 boosted the export value, to \$30 **million**, up 94% year-on-year, while the progressive rise in shipments to the EU saw the November value increase 45%, to \$18m. Strong competition from **China** saw volumes to Taiwan in November decline year-on-year, and subsequently the value eased 14%, to \$17m, while in

contrast, the continued strong demand from Saudi Arabia underpinned the monthly export value increasing threefold, to \$11m.

Research

Project to reduce global wheat disease set to start

Farming.co.uk 14/01/2014. A project costing £1.4m is to go ahead in Cambridge to combat the problem of yellow rust in wheat. NIAB in Cambridge and The John Innes Centre in Norwich will provide the base for a programme developing genetically resistant wheat varieties for a year. In a move as part of an international effort to improve crop production in developing countries, four PhD students appointed in Kenya, Ethiopia and India will spend one year abroad in one of the UK partner institutions. Yellow rust, a problematic fungal disease in wheat, causes major concerns when an epidemic breaks out with crops potentially seeing a yield loss of up to 40% especially as many modern wheat crops possess poor resistance to the disease. Combining genetics from over 600 wheat varieties from around the globe, collected prior to intensive wheat breeding, the project aims to develop old wheat species into modern high-yielding, rust resistant varieties. Whilst the project will benefit UK growers, for countries such as Kenya, who cannot afford a sufficient fungicide programme, this will be particularly useful.

World's first GM wheat getting closer

ABC 14/01/2014. The world's largest seed **company** Monsanto, which also markets the herbicide Roundup, says it's getting closer to developing a genetically modified wheat variety resistant to Roundup's key ingredient - glyphosate. Monsanto, which already sells GM varieties of corn and soybeans, could become the first **company** to market genetically modified wheat. Professor Rick Roush, of Melbourne University, says while there's demand for herbicide resistant wheat from US farmers, he predicts Aust farmers will be less interested because of differences in the way they plant their crops. "Most of southern Australia that gets planted into wheat would get an application of a herbicide like paraquat or glyphosate anyhow, before planting and then farmers will go out and direct drill their seed into the stubble after that, so there's key herbicides already being used in an efficient way for growing the crop. There's less interest in seeing Roundup-ready wheat than there are other kinds of advances in wheat." Trials of genetically modified wheat in Aust are focussing on improving crop yields and the digestibility of protein in wheat, as well as developing crops that will tolerate drought and frost, and are still years away from **commercial** development.

Construction

Construction on massive chicken farm delayed

ABC 14/01/2014. Plans to build the largest free-range chicken farm in Australia have been stalled by court action. Queensland construction **company** Santrev was due to start construction on a \$34m facility in South Australia's Riverland late last year. The plans for the **site**, in Blanchetown, north-east of Adelaide, include 42 sheds which will house about 40,000 birds each. But in a move that's surprised the developers, the Country Fire Service has launched action against the relevant authority, the Mid-Murray Council, in South Australia's Environment Court. The CFS brought the action against Santrev because it says the fire safety standards for the buildings are not high enough. The pre-trial hearing is set for today, and Santrev director Luke Travanion says the **company** is hoping for a quick resolution. The chief executive of the Regional Development Authority for the Riverland and Murraylands, Brenton Lewis, says the delays in construction are disappointing.

CO cnlcnn : Canola Council of Canada

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