

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – August 2022

Housekeeping notes:

- On Labor Day (9/5/22) our office will close at noon.
- If you have an emergency be sure to call the clinic number 585-591-2660. Often our vets are on another call and don't get a chance to receive your message when you contact them instead. Calling the office directly will allow us to prioritize your emergency!

Teat Dip Can Increase Profit:

Most of us just think teat dip is teat dip and that as long as we think it is on the teats = good enough.

Here are some crucial points about teat dip on any farm:

1. Teat Dip is not useful unless it is actually being applied to the teats.
 - a. Take a walk through the milking area. Are all teats being covered both pre and post? Often times we think it is, but many cows leave the milking area with little or no dip on the teats.
 - b. If using sprayers: Be sure the milk harvester is covering the whole teat, From the base of the teat to the teat end and 360° around each teat. NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. Apply Post dip to the teats as soon as possible after the unit has been removed.
 - A. After milking the teat end is open and at risk of bacteria entering. So it is important to apply post- dip ASAP.
3. Pre and post dip are very effective tools in helping you lower your SCC, bacteria counts, and lowering mastitis incidence..
4. Teat dip is not a “cure-all”, you must keep exit alleys and barn area clean and apply it on all cows correctly.
5. Remember that if the teat is not clean to begin with the dip is not as effective.
 - A. Be sure the teat is free of all organic matter before the dip is applied.

Numerous products containing several different germicides are currently on the market. At this time no U.S. government agency requires efficacy, safety, or residue data on teat disinfectants prior to marketing. Therefore, there are many products on the market that have not been tested at all.

The National Mastitis Council is a not-for-profit professional organization devoted to reducing mastitis and enhancing milk quality. The NMC promotes research and provides

information to the dairy industry on udder health, milking management, milk quality, and milk safety.

NMC has developed protocols for determining effectiveness of mastitis control products.

We recommend that you use only teat dips that follow the NMC guidelines. Some of the pre-dips that we recommend are: Bovadine and Quartermate. Some of the Post-dips that we recommend are: Bovadine and Quartermate.

We strongly recommend that you talk to your veterinarian about what teat dip will work best for your operation. For more information visit <http://www.nmconline.org/info.htm>

Healthy Heifers This Fall

The risk level for internal parasites will vary depending on the outdoor environment for the heifers this summer. If heifers are on a pasture that is used from year-to-year, their risk level for internal parasites is high. Another risk factor is the number of animals on the pasture or dry lot. Higher rates of stocking raise the environmental contamination level, increasing the chances of heifers being exposed to an infective dose of the parasite eggs. Plan now for your fall deworming for heifers. Heifers with any access to pastures, even if only part-time, will benefit from a deworming program. As we bring heifers into winter housing this fall we should consider low stress handling techniques to make administration of dewormers convenient and safe for both the heifers and workers.

Consult with your herd veterinarian to determine which dewormer is best for your situation. There are many topical (pour-ons) and oral options available. Helpful information to design your protocol includes which dewormer was used this past spring or in the fall, and whether the animals will be in headlocks or a chute. If you have a large number of heifers to treat it might be more practical to include dewormer in their TMR. Cost for products vary. Yes, it may seem odd to be talking with your herd veterinarian in August about fall worming of heifers. Before we know it, the calendar will be late September or early October and the heifers will be coming into winter housing. Think about having your heifer deworming supplies on hand by early September – that is only a few days away!

**Congrats to all the 4-H kids for their accomplishments
this fair season!**

We appreciate your contribution to agriculture!

