Attica Veterinary Associates

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January 2021

2020 Year Summaries

A 2020 year end summary of services provided (labeled "Treatments") and items purchased are included with your January 2021 statement. These summaries can be added to find the total veterinary cost billed for the year. If you did not receive one of these and would like one please e-mail ratticav@rochester.rr.com.

Picking up supply orders

Your time is valuable! We don't want you to have to stand around and wait to pick up your supplies if our phones are busy. Please e-mail, text or call your order in ahead of time.

e-mail: avacattltek@icloud.com Text line – 585-356-3420

Bedding Calves in Barns During Cold Weather

Research supports the need for good ventilation and plenty of bedding in cold weather. A Wisconsin based research team said, "Calf pens in naturally ventilated calf barns frequently become microenvironments of poorer air hygiene within the barn. Increased ventilation rates effectively improve air hygiene in the alleys, but solid fronts, rear panels, and covers result in the accumulation of airborne bacteria within the pens. The accumulation of high bacterial counts in the pens was associated with increasing prevalence of calves with respiratory disease."

Solid fronts and covers are sometimes recommended to prevent drafts and chilling but **it appears that supplying deep straw bedding in which the calf can "nest" is a preferable strategy.** Despite straw bedding was associated with higher pen counts than wood-based bedding, the thermal control benefits of nesting appear to outweigh the increased airborne bacteria associated with straw.

Although enclosing the pen with solid fronts or covers should be avoided, a single solid barrier between calves is associated with decreased prevalence of respiratory disease. The study suggests that the ideal pen provides 3 square meters (32 square feet) or more area, has solid panels on 2 sides to separate each calf from the next, mesh panels in front and rear, and **deep loose bedding during months when the temperature fall below the thermoneutral zone of the calf (60°F for newborns, 40°F for month old calves).**

Refrigerator or Storage Cabinet?

Summary:

1. **Monitor Internal Temperature**
2. **Avoid shock loading or pre-chill warm liquids to reduce impact.**
3. **Consider a separate refrigerator just for high value products.**

Monitor temperature: Not too warm and not too cold.

The value of products stored in the refrigerator will likely drive the level of sophistication required for temperature monitoring. Add up the value of medications and vaccines stores in your fridge – does the total come anywhere close to $500? Recall that in addition to vaccines, some medications require refrigerated storage (35-45°F, 2-7°C) as well. Many of these products can be damaged or inactivated by temperatures that fluctuate over 45°F or below freezing (32°F).

Monitoring is inexpensive. Refrigerator thermometers were priced as low as $2 and there were many choices available for under $10. Ideally, the thermometer should be easy to read when opening the door to add or remove contents from the fridge.

Avoid "shock loading".

"Shock loading" means adding a large enough heat source to raise the refrigerator's internal temperature above 45°F and keeping the temperature there for an extended period of time. An example would be adding three or more gallons of warm colostrum.

Colostrum cooling research has shown that as little as three gallons of warm colostrum in two quart nursing bottles would bring internal refrigerator temperatures to over 50°F. One load of ten bottles of 90°F colostrum sustained a temperature above 45F (the upper level for storing vaccines) for 250 minutes. Not only will the vaccines be above the appropriate handling temperatures, the colostrum won't cool appropriately either.

Pre-chill warm liquids

Pre-chilling means to cool colostrum to 60°F from body temperature, at which its collected, to shorten the time that the internal temperature of the fridge will be elevated above 45F.

Store high value products in their own refrigerator

If temperature sensitive animal health products are stored on-farm, it may make sense to purchase a separate compact unit for them. This is especially true when the value of the products exceeds the price of the refrigerator. A typical dormitory-sized fridge costs between $100-$300.

Most importantly – read the storage requirements on products, just because "we've always kept in there" doesn't mean that's where it goes.

For Sale:

Large Oat Straw bales - $200/ton

***New* Falcon 3 in 1 generator/welder/Air compressor - $5,000**

2 rolls black rubber matting 4' wide x 110' long – 1 ½" thickness - $2,500 for both

Text Chris – 716-572-7239

Wanted:

Heifers to board – Age 2-6mos, room for 100-120 – contact Jim Woods 585-590-9115