

Attica Veterinary Associates, PC

July 2019 Newsletter



Fair Season Is Underway

Big congratulations to all Genesee County fair competitors and best of luck to Erie County and Wyoming County!

Dear AVA Clients,

It is with mixed emotion that I announce that I will be chasing sunshine and moving closer to family in California. I have come to cherish the western NY area and all of the experiences here. You are an incredible community. Thank you for letting me work alongside you for the last 5 years!

With respect and gratitude,

Dr. Susan

For Sale

- Badger Chopper Wagon BN950 16ft 3 beater tandem running gear – asking \$5400. Robert Koithan 716-807-1965

Vaccinations Subject to HEAT stress

Summer heat stress needs to be considered when timing heifer vaccinations. Heat stress for month-old calves actually begins when outdoor temperatures go above 70°F. Remember, the warmer the temperatures above comfortable summer weather for us, the more likely that calves we are vaccinating might be immuno-compromised due to inadequate water consumption (dehydration).

Summer Guidelines

1. If possible, schedule vaccinations during the coolest part of the day as possible. Frequently this is very early in the day. Calf body temperatures usually peak between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.
2. If possible, wait a day or two if heat stress is intense when you plan to vaccinate. Listen to the weather reports and reschedule when temperatures are likely to be more hospitable (both to the calves and to you).
3. Remember, responding to a vaccine is a stressful event for a calf. Therefore, avoid other stresses for a couple of days before and after vaccination. These stresses might be a change in feed, grouping calves from individual housing, moving calves on a cattle trailer, weaning, sickness, dehorning and parasites.
4. As always, postpone vaccinating sick calves until they are back on full feed and “perky.” Marking the housing for these calves with a cow leg band works well to remind us to catch up vaccinating them at our next regular vaccination cycle.

Preserve Vaccine Quality

Vaccines increase heifers’ immunity very effectively. However, during hot winter weather they must be handled carefully to preserve their quality. Most vaccines are labeled to be stored at temperatures below 45°F. If more than one bottle is needed at a time, consider carrying extra bottles in an insulated cooler similar to those used for lunches. Add an ice pack or container of frozen vegetables in the bottom to help keep contents well below 60°F.

Mix modified live virus vaccines just before giving injections to heifers. Your goal should be to use all of the mixed vaccines within one hour after reconstituting them.

Further, protect vaccines from direct sunlight, especially during the summer. Leaving any vaccine in the mid-day sun for even a few minutes may significantly reduce its effectiveness. The most frequent problem with this is leaving a bottle of vaccine on the dashboard of the pickup truck next to the windshield – full exposure to sunlight.