

# Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – July 2023

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## **Upcoming BioPRYN Schedule changes:**

- The week of July 24, samples will only be set up once that week.

Please still have samples here by Thursday 7/27 @ noon. Results will be by Friday, 5pm.

- The week of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Samples will be set up only once that week. Please still have samples here by Thursday 8/3 @ noon. Results will be reported by Saturday 8/5 – 5pm.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and appreciate your continued business.

## **Welcome to our newest vet - Dr. Benjamin Luksic!**

We would like to welcome Dr. Benjamin Luksic as the newest veterinarian to our practice. Dr. Ben grew up in northeast Pennsylvania and attended Penn State University for his undergraduate degree in Animal Science. He then earned his doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine focusing on production livestock. After vet school he went on to complete his Masters of Business Administration at the Wharton School of Business. Dr. Ben enjoys helping farmers achieve their production and financial goals through data-driven decision analysis, risk assessment, statistical simulation and optimization in the face of constraints. He also enjoys herd medicine and building relationships. When not on a farm, Dr. Ben enjoys hiking, flyfishing, playing the violin and skiing with his wife and family. Since finishing school, he has worked in both corporate and private practice. We are very excited that he is joining us and hope that you will make him feel welcome.

## **Water for Calves in July – One of our favorite articles written by Sam Leadley**

We know that water intake in calves depends on how much milk or milk replacer consumed, amount of starter intake and environmental temperature. Calves need more water to drink as the temperature goes up. Research reported in CalfNote#68 (available at calfnote.com) shows these changes (for calves eating 2.2 lbs of starter and 4 quarts of milk replacer daily). On one hand, the 18-degree change from 32 to 50 degrees only increased water intake by 0.4 quarts daily. On the other hand, a small 9 degree change from 86 to 95 degrees accounted for an increase of 0.5 quarts. Small increases at higher temperatures meant drastically greater increases in water needs.

For calves near weaning or already weaned that still live in individual pens, using a larger water pail may be a practical way to avoid having to provide more water than once a day. Consider fastening a 5-gallon pail to the hutch or pen for the last week or two before the calves leave for the transition housing.

## Clean Pails Equal Higher Water Intake

In addition to making sure that the calves have enough water to drink, our special summer challenge is to keep the water pails clean. If you are using a different pail for feeding milk and water, keeping the water pail clean may affect water intake rates.

Research shows this relationship between cleaning water pails and growth. Among preweaned calves these do not seem like big differences. However, consider that 1.6#/day is almost 13 percent greater than 1.4#/day!

### Daily Live Weight Gain By Feeding Group By Water Pail Maintenance Protocol

<b>Preweaned</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Weaned</b>	<b>Calves</b>
Cleaned (interval)	Gain (#/day)	Cleaned (interval)	Gain (#/day)
Every day	1.6	Every day	3.1
Once / week	1.5	Once / week	3
Once / 2 weeks	1.4	Once / 2 weeks	2.9

Transition heifers with clean, fresh water in clean tubs continued to gain at a higher rate (0.2#/day higher with daily cleaning compared to every two weeks). We might guess that increased water intake affected rate of gain in 2 ways:

1. First, the calves ate more grain and/or hay.
2. Second, the efficiency of feed conversion was greater in the higher water intake calves than the lower water intake calves.

Therefore, changing water daily and keeping the pail or tub clean is a profitable practice.

## **Fair Season is in Full Swing!**

A few things to remember when headed to fair:

- Double check ear tags and make sure none are missing. If you are missing any or have added any additional tags, please call the clinic ASAP.
- Don't forget your health papers at home, they are your ticket in!
- Keep a close eye on your animals; they're in a new place and have an adjustment period.
- Remember animal will behave different in this new environment.
- Water, water, water! Fair barns can be HOT, make sure your animals have water available 24/7.
- Be sure to clean and sanitize your equipment before you leave home and then again before you bring it home.
- Be safe and have fun!

## **For sale:**

- Heifers & Bulls 300-500lbs & a 2 year old black Jersey bull – 585-813-1102
- Springing Holstein heifers – due September. 15 of them. \$2,000/each – Tom Perrin 716-913-1864

