

# AVA Newsletter

March 2016

## Fly Control:

Now is the time to discuss fly control programs. We will be offering Kumafin parasitic wasps this summer. Call the clinic to discuss the best program for your farm.

## Eprinex Special!

Eprinex 5L - \$258.83 until gone. Pay with cash/check or on retainer and receive a 15% discount - \$220. Sale applies to 5L size only. That's up to \$100 savings!



## For Sale:

- New Holland 310 Baler. Excellent condition. No kicker. Stored Inside. \$4000  
Bulinski Farms 716-735-7504
- Dry sawdust bedding by the 10 wheeler load. Call Dan George at 716-430-3747
- Clean small square bales. Oat straw. \$4/bale. Call Paul at 716-572-6217
- One Holstein, bred heifer. Due April. \$1650. AI Bred. Vaccinated for Brucellosis and with 9-way. Call Theresa at 585-815-3717
- 300 tons of haylage for sale. Richard Pilc 585-880-1424.

Do you have an item you'd like to sell? Call the clinic and we can advertise in the newsletter.

Attica Veterinary Associates  
116 Prospect Street  
Attica, NY 14011  
585-591-2660

## Cutting back too soon

Late March and April weather are so pleasant compared to what we experience during January and February. The air seems warm. However, remember that if you still need to wear a long sleeved shirt in the morning when you feed calves, our youngest calves still need extra milk or milk replacer.

The term “thermoneutral zone” describes the environmental temperature range within which an animal uses no energy to keep warm or cool off. The lower edge of this thermoneutral zone for young calves is about 60°F.

If you reflect on the past week it is easy to see that there are not many hours when it is above 60°F. When it is below 60°F our youngest calves are using energy from their bodies to maintain a constant 102°F core body temperature.

Even in late April there are a lot of days left before summer with at least part of the day well below 60 degrees. That is why we need to keep feeding milk or milk replacer at a volume well above our summer rate.

For example, if our winter and summer feeding rates are six quarts and four quarts respectively, **we need to keep feeding at the higher cold weather rate until we no longer have to wear warm clothing in the morning to feed calves.** This is especially true for calves not yet regularly eating calf starter grain.

Young calves are more vulnerable to chilling than ones two months old. Why? Their body mass compared to their skin surface is low. Basically, they have more skin surface per pound of body tissue. That means young, small calves lose heat more efficiently than larger calves. They burn more energy per pound of body weight to keep warm than do calves that are two months old or older. For comparison, the lower limit of the thermoneutral zone for 150 pound calves is close to 32 degrees.

The two reasons why we should be as concerned about the spring milk feeding rates for younger are thus:

- First, their thermoneutral zone is much warmer than for the older calves.
- Second, younger calves are not able to supplement milk or milk replacer with calf starter grain.