

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – March 2022

Now Is The Time To Defrost

Farm refrigerators have to work hard in the summertime conditions to keep our vaccine supplies at recommended storage temperatures – 36-39°F (2-4°C). In a recent survey of dairy farm refrigerators, only 27% maintained a temperature between 35° and 45° during more than 95% of the 48-hour test period. One out of four units maintained that temperature for less than 5% of the test period. Do you keep a thermometer in your unit to check on this?

Now is the time to get ready for summer. Here are a few tips to keep refrigerators both efficient and cold enough to keep vaccines and colostrum at ideal storage temperatures:

- Manual defrost units need to be defrosted regularly. Guideline on frost buildup? You start using extra electricity as soon as frost buildup exceeds ¼ inch on coils. In addition, iced-up coils often cannot maintain below 40°F temperatures when challenged by hot external conditions even if the unit runs continuously.
- Auto-defrost models need to have drains that work. Many units have an evaporator pan you can check. If the drain is working properly, the pan should be wet when the unit shuts off. Because auto-defrost models vary widely in design, you should check the manual that accompanied the unit (if you can find it) for proper maintenance practices.
- All refrigerators have refrigerant-cooling coils usually located either on the back or underneath the unit. Dirty coils may prevent the unit from reaching the thermostat setting even if the refrigerator condenser operates continuously. Moreover, dirty coils usually mean higher electricity use. If you have a portable compressed air unit for inflating flat tires it is ideal for blowing out refrigerator cooling coils.
- For long term efficiency, consider relocating the refrigerator where the environment does not get excessively hot, especially in summer months.

Spring is here! Almost.

It's great to shed heavy winter clothes, but remember that our calves have to burn energy to maintain their body temperature of 101F any time the temperature around them is below 60F! Let's keep the calf coats on these girls for another month. And, remember to maintain our winter milk feeding rates – it is still getting below freezing at night time until mid-May.

NO POWER ??

Just a quick note – if ever you can't get through on our phone lines during business hours, there's a good chance maybe we lost power or internet. Please use the text line in this situation – 585-356-3420. Please only call this line after trying our main phone line. This is a rare circumstance, but it is worth mentioning in an emergency.

Health paper / show season:

As we start to enter spring show season this is just a reminder to plan ahead far in advance. Be sure to give us plenty of time to get required testing done and back. Be sure to look over both the show / sale requirements as well at the individual state the animal is traveling to. If you have any questions / concerns please contact us.

For Sale:

- John Deere 7000 – 4 row corn planter, nice shape. Richard Pilec
(585) 880-1424
- 1st cutting round 4x5 bales. Stored inside – WBB (716) 860-0842
- 2016 NISSAN NV3500 Cargo Van – 300,000 miles, as-is. Great for running calves around your farm. \$1,000 or best offer. 585-591-2660
- 1st cutting round 2021 4x4 bales. Always under cover. \$40/bale. Delivery available. John Blizniak
(716) 913-1043.

