

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – September 2021

Update On Our Route Truck Driver – Roy Gilkinson

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that our beloved employee, Roy, Age 57, of Bliss, NY, passed away on September 13, 2021 at the Wyoming County Community Hospital in Warsaw.

He was born July 8, 1964 in Erie, Penn., son of the late Leroy and Marjorie Kilbaine Gilkinson. Roy spent his career in the farming industry. His knowledge of farming was based on his variety of jobs from milking to farm implement maintenance to his most recent experience in route sales; a job he truly enjoyed. Roy was a tractor enthusiast. He loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed cutting and selling wood. Roy loved his Lord and savior and enjoyed attending the City Church in Batavia with his family.

Surviving are his wife of thirty-seven years, Kimberly Prichard Gilkinson whom he married on March 10, 1984; his children, Courtney Gilkinson of Bliss, Kristen (Stephen) Carlisle of Harrison, Ohio and Jaison Gilkinson of Harrison, Ohio; his siblings, Ron (Joanna) Gilkinson of Northeast, Penn., Ralph (Michele) Gilkinson of Wattsburg, Penn., Bob (Carol) Gilkinson of Sherman, NY, Marlene Gilkinson of Northeast, Penn., Roger (Debbie) Gilkinson of Northeast, Penn., Joe (LeeAnn) Gilkinson of Waterford, Penn., Tom (Sharon) Gilkinson of Clymer, NY, Raleigh (Lori) Gilkinson of Jacksonville, Fla., Randy (LouAnn) Gilkinson of Northeast, Penn.; his sister-in-law, Vicki Gilkinson of Russell, Penn.; many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Rich Gilkinson.

Roy's memorial service will be held Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 11 AM at St. Anthony's Church, 114 Liberty Street, Batavia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wilmot Cancer Institute Development Office, 300 E. River Rd., PO Box 278996, Rochester, NY 14627 or The City Church, 210 E. Main St., Batavia, NY 14020.

Please feel free to send condolences to the clinic and we can pass along to the family too.

If you are interested in donating or even sharing words of encouragement for the family, Please visit: <https://gofund.me/1490ff22>

We know we are all tired of hearing the *word* Coronavirus?

BUT - Let's talk about it in calves –

Get the Jump on Coronavirus Among Calves this Fall

Coronavirus (NOT A NEW VIRUS) is frequently associated with calf diarrhea and sometimes with pneumonia as well in our heifer calves. This virus is associated with “winter dysentery” among cows.

How is this virus spread? It is found in both feces and respiratory fluids from dams and from infected calves. Why be concerned now? There is evidence that fecal shedding from cows is higher in the fall season while also peaking in cows at the time of calving. Also, infected calves not only shed heavily during active infection but can continue to shed the virus particles after infection, for two or more weeks after clinical symptoms disappear. This means that calves who do not appear sick may be shedding. Closed up calf barns in the fall are ideal environments for high transmission rates.

Reducing Infection Rates

1. **Reduce shedding.** Controlling stress is a key factor in maternity cows. All the usual good management rules apply such as adequate resting space, adequate feed bunk space, and minimizing pen moves before calving. Among calves, again, the best management practices contribute to robust health suppress shedding – for example, these practices are excellent colostrum management and seasonally-adequate nutrition to promote strong anti-viral immunity. Monitor colostrum-based immunity levels – have your vet (or vet-tech) take blood samples from 1-7 day-old calves to show how well colostrum management is working. September-October are key months to confirm blood serum total protein levels – Test, don't guess!
2. **Reduce transmission.** Keep calving pens well ventilated. Minimize the time newborn calves are exposed to high-shedding adult cows (that is, cows who are close up or just calved). Keep air exchange rates seasonally-adequate in calf barns – don't be fooled by cooler weather that calf barns need to be closed up, resulting in stale, moist and virus-loaded air. Cooler weather allows the virus to live longer – sometime as long as 3 days. Fecal-oral transmission is always a threat. It can happen in the calving pen – especially if a newborn calf licks the hair coat of an adult cow. It can happen among hutches as care givers carry calf manure from hutch to hutch. Nasal discharge and saliva carry the virus – especially on calf feeding equipment, too.

Tips for *effective* cleaning of feeding equipment

1. Rinse with lukewarm water before washing.
2. Wash with a high pH alkaline chlorinated detergent in water over 120F. Liquid detergents like the ones used for washing parlor pipeline work fine. Or, a dry powder detergent will work well (1oz. to 2gal water) (e.g., Super Kleenite). Remember, household liquid detergents are less effective in cutting biofilms than these because they do not create as strong an alkaline solution as the other detergents.
3. During high risk periods (e.g, Fall season) we suggest disinfecting just-cleaned equipment with a strong chlorine rinse (e.g., household bleach at 5oz. bleach to 5gal water) or even stronger chlorine dioxide solution. We have shelf-stable chlorine dioxide tabs at the vet clinic. Or, any of the “oxy” brand disinfectants that require blending ingredients will also work.

Go to www.calffacts.com and scroll down to “Washing Milk Containers” for both a checklist and protocol in English and Spanish.