



# **Attica Veterinary**

## **Associates**

### **September 2019**

#### **Bio-PRYN –What is it?**

Over thirty years ago Dr. Garth Sasser developed a test called Bio-PRYN (Pregnant-Ruminant-Yes-No) that measures the concentration of this protein in blood and can provide an extremely accurate determination of pregnancy status in cattle, very early in gestation (28 days post breeding).

A growing number of dairy and beef producers and their veterinarians are utilizing blood-based pregnancy testing in unique ways to complement traditional pregnancy detection methods and because BioPRYN is a proven, convenient, accurate and cost-effective way to check your animals for pregnancy that eliminates subjectivity. Some progressive producers that are using embryo transfer or synchronization protocols with artificial insemination will use BioPRYN as an early "open check" at 28 days post breeding to identify if the animal needs to be reintroduced to the synchronization program.

Other producers and their veterinarians will use a BioPRYN check to supplement monthly or bi-weekly herd health checks to identify those open cows as early as possible and to avoid the entire herd being locked up for extended amounts of time on pregnancy-check day. BioPRYN is also a useful tool for a reconfirmation pregnancy check later in gestation to identify the small percentage of cows that will experience embryonic loss and not carry to term.

BioPRYN recently released bioPRYNhfr-25 which allows you to check heifers at 25 days post breeding.

**October Part Two: How to use BioPRYN**

#### **Focus on Forage**

This is a series of six one-page newsnotes from Dr. Jon Kemp. They all contain tips on better quality corn silage harvest and storage.

1. Scouting the fields—harvest at peak quality both in maturity and moisture.
2. Segregate quality feeds - given the difficult planting season we may have fields that have unequal quality. Plan to store separately.
3. Harvest order - If the planting sequence contained a gap of one or more weeks there may be an opportunity to harvest very late planted corn out of order.
4. Processing the crop - Check roller gap - remember the gap may need to decrease as corn dries down.
5. Pushing up at the bunk - keep the layer depth to 5 inches or less.
6. Packing rules - keep incline on progressive wedge less than 3:1 ratio (three feet of run to each one foot of rise) to insure adequate packing.

**Where to find these notes? Go to [www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com), click on Resources, select AVA Newsletter - there you are!**

## Cows can't Drink Ice

It may seem crazy to talk about ice when the forecast is for 80 degree weather in late September.

BUT, there is a lot of harvest work to do between now and the first freezing weather. It is time to schedule a rainy day task.

Be sure the waterers with electric heaters still have thermostats that work. A summer season with lots of dust and moisture can often cause these thermostats to "freeze up." It's common for us to have to replace parts, too. Be sure to have these parts on hand.

Do you have a waterer that is exposed to west winds? Does it frequently ice over when there is a strong cold west wind? Think about a protective shield made of plastic or some flexible material.

Late fall is also a good time to be sure there is adequate flow into waterers. Thirsty cows cannot drink water that is not there. Summer weather often promotes plant growth that clogs openings in float-operated valves.

## Scours and respiratory disease in young calves are linked.

In a May 26 Hoard's article Dr. Ollivett says "Young calves with diarrhea are much more likely to develop pneumonia than their herdmates that did not experience diarrhea." By improving gut health we can expect to see fewer treatable cases of respiratory illness.

She observes "Often, abnormal manure is overlooked if the calf is not off feed or depressed. When you spend time specifically looking at fecal consistency, you might realize you have more of a problem than you thought."

Especially where pneumonia issues are serious among 3 and 4 week-old calves, Dr. Ollivett recommends serious-level record keeping on diarrhea among 1 and 2 week-old calves. She notes that measuring weight gain during weeks 1-2 may reveal that intestinal health is not ideal. It is "normal" when calves receive adequate nutrition that they begin gaining weight before the end of the first week. If your calves are not gaining weight or losing weight by 14 days of age you may have found one of the causes of pneumonia in the subsequent weeks. **We stock weight tapes here at the clinic that are calibrated specifically for Holstein calves.**

## FOR SALE

Badger chopper wagon BN950 16' 3-beater, tandem running gear – asking \$5,400. Robert Koithan 716-807-1965

Sawdust! Sawdust! Sawdust! Dry sawdust for sale for cows, calves & heifers. Call anytime (716) 430-3811. Ask for Dan

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