
AVA NEWSLETTER

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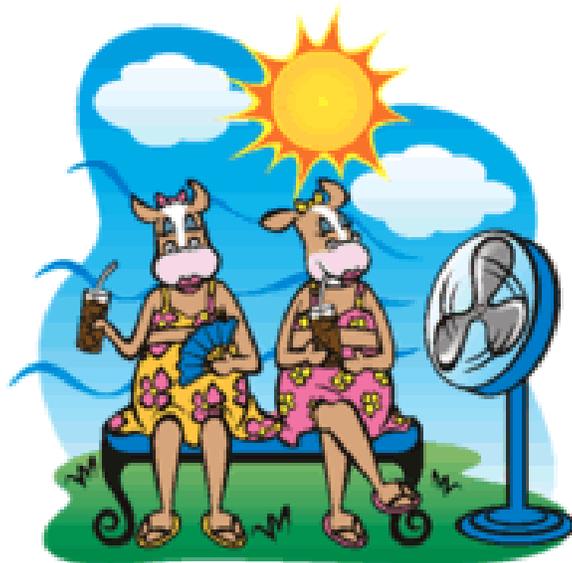
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CHILL COLOSTRUM BEFORE REFRIGERATING

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATORS ARE INEFFECTIVE FOR CHILLING COLOSTRUM. IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF COLOSTRUM (FOR EXAMPLE, FIVE GALLONS) TAKE A LONG TIME TO CHILL. EVEN WHEN PUT INTO A REFRIGERATOR RIGHT AFTER COLLECTION, FIVE GALLONS OF 90° COLOSTRUM TOOK ABOUT 24 HOURS TO COOL DOWN TO 40°. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT A SINGLE GALLON OF COLOSTRUM IN TWO NURSING BOTTLES TOOK OVER 10 HOURS TO COOL DOWN TO 40°. BOTH OF THESE COOLING RATES LEAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR COLIFORM BACTERIA TO MULTIPLY AND BADLY CONTAMINATE COLOSTRUM.

A WORKABLE STRATEGY IS TO CHILL COLOSTRUM TO 60° BEFORE IT GOES INTO THE REFRIGERATOR. ONE METHOD IS TO: FIRST, BOTTLE COLOSTRUM; SECOND, SIT BOTTLES INTO A WATER ICE BATH FOR 30 MINUTES; THEN, REFRIGERATE. ANOTHER METHOD IS TO: FIRST, KEEP CLEAN GALLON JUGS OF ICE IN A FREEZER; SECOND, PLACE A JUG OF ICE INTO A FIVE-GALLON PAIL OF WARM COLOSTRUM; THIRD, COVER THE FIVE-GALLON PAL AND PUT INTO REFRIGERATOR.



Is It Time To Defrost?



HARD-WORKING REFRIGERATORS GENERATE LOTS OF FROST IN SUMMERTIME CONDITIONS. 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?

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO KEEP THEM BOTH EFFICIENT AND COLD ENOUGH TO KEEP VACCINES AND COLOSTRUM AT IDEAL STORAGE TEMPERATURES:

- **MANUAL-DEFROST UNITS NEED TO BE DEFROSTED REGULARLY. YOU START USING EXTRA ELECTRICITY AS SOON AS FROST BUILDUP EXCEEDS ¼ INCH ON COILS AND, ICED-UP COILS CANNOT MAINTAIN 40° TEMPERATURES WHEN CHALLENGED BY HOT EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.**
- **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 HAVE TO 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 MEAN HIGHER ELECTRICITY USE. AND, DIRTY COILS MAY PREVENT THE UNIT FROM REACHING THE THERMOSTAT SETTING EVEN IF THE REFRIGERATOR CONDENSER OPERATES CONTINUOUSLY.**



-- Cattle Bedding --

DRY SAWDUST and BAILED PAPER

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