

# Attica Veterinary Associates

116 Prospect Street, Attica, NY 14011

585-591-2660 / fax 585-591-2898 / Text line 585-356-3420

[www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com)



Newsletter – December 2021

---

## **First and Foremost – THANK YOU!**

We would like to thank you for your faithful business during this unprecedented time. We appreciate you, your family and your employees. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday and New Year. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in 2022.



## **Holiday Hours:**

Please note – emergency services available 24/7/365 (585-591-2660),

Do not call the text line for emergencies as it's not manned 24/7

- Christmas Eve - Friday - 12/24 – office closes at noon
- Christmas Day – Saturday - 12/25 – office closed
- New Years Eve – Friday 12/31 – office closes at noon
- New Years Day – Saturday 1/1/22 – office closed

## **Insert With Statement:**

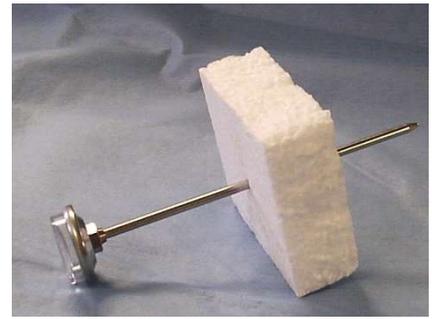
Please note that there is a small green pamphlet in with your statement. One of our vaccine suppliers has recently changed packaging. We thought this pamphlet might be helpful because it shows what the old and new one looks like. We know many of our clients, as well as us, are used to what's familiar to us. We are hoping this will be helpful as the change takes place. As always, any questions or concerns, please ask us!

## **Brrrr....Cold Weather Sample Handling**

As we start to see the temperature drop more, it's a great time of year to remind you that blood samples should not be allowed to freeze. Try to keep them at the temperature required. For example, the bioPRYN samples are fine at room temp or refrigerated. Concerns? Questions? Always give us a call before discarding any samples!

## Is Your Wash Water Hot Enough?

The on-farm problem looks like this: Too many calves seem to be requiring treatment for scours. Equipment used for colostrum collection, storage, and feeding is not getting clean enough. The Milk or milk replacer equipment isn't getting clean enough either – it seems to have scum on it and it feels slimy.



Who is the culprit? It could be the wash water temperature. On a number of farm visits since the last couple of months we have seen many folks washing equipment in water that was too cool to do a good job. If you do not already have an equipment washing protocol download it from our website. Go to [www.Atticacows.com](http://www.Atticacows.com), → Resources → Calf Facts Resource Library → “Washing Milk Containers: Protocol”.

Remember, for manual washing of equipment that is used with colostrum, milk, and/or milk replacer, the wash water temperature needs to be above 120°F. This means that when finished washing up, the water you drain from the sink should be above 120°F.

While it seems obvious, if the water that you drain is above 120F, it has to start out considerably higher than that. It is very easy for us on a farm call to spot the wash water temperature problem – if the worker has their bare hands in the water, it is too cool. Wash water should always be hot enough to require rubber gloves (not nitrile milking gloves).

If using a stainless steel sink on very cold days, it may be difficult to have your wash water hot enough. It takes so much heat to warm the sink that you end up with 110F or 120F at the beginning of washing up equipment. Try filling the sink one-quarter to one-third full with straight hot water, let it warm the sink, let it drain out (maybe to feed calves?), and then refill the sink with hot water a second time.

If you have been out-of-doors in cold weather, remember that your hands were conditioned by the cold. Your hands will not be an accurate way to test for actual water temperature – using a rapid-read thermometer is much more reliable. A local dairyman suggested pushing a thermometer through a small square of Styrofoam will allow it to float in your wash water while you work. The thermometer should be more accurate and should help improve cleanliness on your farm.

