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# AVA NEWSLETTER

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116 Prospect St., Attica, NY  
(585) 591-2660

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

Issue No. 12

December 2013

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
ALL OF US AT ATTICA  
VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATES, P.C.!!

## **Attica Veterinary Associates Holiday Schedule:**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve – Office is open 7:30am - Noon**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas – Office is closed. Available for emergencies**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve – Office is open 7:30am - Noon**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day – Office is closed. Available for emergencies**

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## **biOPRYN<sup>®</sup> Pregnancy Testing Services Holiday Schedule:**

**Week of 12/23 – 12/27 - Christmas – All samples will be plated on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and results will be on Friday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week of 12/30-1/3 - New Years - All samples will be plated on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and results will be on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**If Charles picks up your samples up, he will discuss with you what days he will be picking them up.**

**Thanks for your understanding, and we hope you enjoy the holidays!**

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# Drying off Calves – An Important Wintertime Job

Pat 1 of 2

By Sam Leadley Ph.D.

During the winter the air in the calving area seldom is warm enough to dry off the newborn calf. The calf's energy reserves are used to supply the heat to do this.

## How dry is "dry"?

We advise folks to aim for "fluff" dry. Fluff means that the hair stands erect, not lying flat against the body. Thus we get the stationary blanket of insulating air even though the individual hairs are not fully dry.

## Towels and their care

Clean dry towels work great. I lean toward the all-cotton towels for drying with the least amount of effort on my part. They seem to be the most absorbent. These towels are inexpensive at the dollar-type stores. Caution - the colors run like crazy the first few times these inexpensive towels are washed – so don't mix them with anything where color makes a difference. And, they tend to shrink a fair amount the first time they go through the dryer but, then, who cares?

Plan on washing the towels after every use. When it comes to using towels around amniotic fluids and calving pens don't even think about multiple uses. We are trying to limit exposure to pathogens rather than insure that every calf gets an infective dose of a whole army of them.

How many towels do we need? Plan on at least four bath-size towels for every birth where the care giver starts with a soaking wet calf.

For farms drying many calves the best organization system I have seen used good sized plastic bins to store towels. Depending on herd size the bins can be larger or smaller. Plan on at least three bins – one for clean towels, one for soiled towels (both of these are out next to the calving area) and one that goes back and forth between the calving area and the washer/dryer area. Larger herds will need more than three bins. By the way, cleaning the bins helps keep pathogen levels on the towels low.

-- Cattle Bedding --  
DRIED SAWDUST and BAILED PAPER  
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Leave Message for Dan