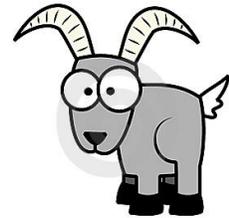


AVA Newsletter

Happy New Year!

January 2015
Issue 01



Year of the Ram

The Polar Plunge is back! And the number of brave Attica Vet participants has increased to THREE! Dr. Eila, Dr. Susan, and Hannah will all be joining the plunge-veteran Teddy Schwytzer in jumping into Lake Ontario on February 8. These plungers would appreciate your donation to their team “Teddy’s Polar Bears” which can be found online at

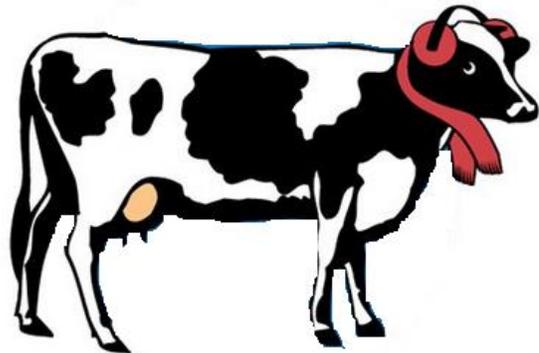
<http://rochester.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1118081>

All proceeds will go to the Special Olympics. Donations can also be made at the clinic – just stop on in! Photos will be taken at the event but if you want to watch the action live come to: Ontario Beach Park in Rochester NY at noon February 8th.

Brrrr....it’s cold out there!

Are your calves wearing coats or blankets?

Research shows that blanketed calves in sub-freezing weather gain slightly more weight than those without blankets. Expect an advantage of about 10 to 12 pounds for calves weaned between 7 to 8 weeks. All this assumes good colostrum management and adequate nutrition. To buy some calf jackets stop by the clinic!



Sampling Your Forages

Many factors affect forage quality before it is delivered to your cows (crop management, growing conditions, handling practices etc). Therefore, standard publications citing forage quality values may greatly over or underestimate true feeding values. A more reliable way to estimate feeding value of a feedstuff is taking representative samples and submitting them to a forage lab where a complete forage analysis can be done.

Taking a Representative Sample

Open-faced bunk: deface a section that you will be feeding and mix it the best you can (either in a mixer wagon or bucket). If mixing the pile separately is too much of a challenge, take a handful from 10 different places as your sample.*

Ag-Bag: these can be sampled in 5-10 places by making openings in the bag along its length and in different locations top to bottom, taking out a handful from each location, and mixing them in a bucket. Remember to tape up the bag when you are done!

Hay/straw bales: taking core samples is the gold standard for this type of feed. If you do not have a core-sampler you can call Attica Vet and a technician will come to your farm to take samples.

An important value that should be monitored as frequently as possible is dry matter. Dry matter is just what it sounds like: the percent of the feed that is left over once all of the water is taken out. Knowing the moisture content of a feed ingredient or a ration is important because the moisture content affects the weight of the feed, but does not provide nutrient value to the animal. The dry matter represents the percentage of the feed that is actually delivering nutrients to the cow. Daily/weekly dry matters can be calculated on farm or we can run them for you here at the clinic (just ask!).

Once you have sampled the feeds that make up your ration you can bring it in to the clinic and we will have it analyzed for you. Dr. Jon and the nutrition team can then help you balance your ration to get the most out of your feeds and out of your cows.

** Please sample large feed bunks with extreme caution as there is a danger of the pile collapsing!*

WANTED

**Large round or square straw bales, non-processed. (585) 356-3572.
Blumer Dairy**