

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – July 2021



Fair Season is in Full Swing!

A few things to remember when headed to fair:

- Double check ear tags and make sure none are missing. If you are missing any or have added any additional tags, please call the clinic ASAP.
- Don't forget your health papers at home, they are your ticket in!
- Keep a close eye on your animals; they're in a new place and have an adjustment period
- Water, water, water! Fair barns can be HOT, make sure your animals have water available 24/7
- Be safe and have fun! Remember both animals and people can be unpredictable in new situations and environments.
- Clean and disinfect equipment before you go and before you come back home to prevent transmission of diseases.
- Quarantine animals when you bring them home for 2 weeks to prevent introducing any diseases they may have encountered into the rest of your herd.

Good luck to everyone headed to shows throughout the fair season! Don't forget to send us your pictures, we'd love to see you with your animals!

Rainy weather getting you down?

The recent heavy rains haven't just made crop work difficult – the rain affects moisture content in feed, too. Rain will decrease the dry matter in feed, varying the nutrient content that finally reaches your cows' mouths. Rations with an increased moisture concentration will result in less dry matter being fed to cows and may affect the ratio of forage to grain. Fortunately, cows are resilient and will often adapt to short term increases in moisture changes. Please consult with your nutritionist for more information.



Put The Brakes on Bacterial Growth in Colostrum

Bacterial populations double every 20 minutes in body-temperature colostrum. Take advantage of an inexpensive procedure to arrest the rapid growth of bacteria in colostrum – lower the temperature. The ideal temperature for colostrum is 60°F reached 30 min after collection, chilled from its original body temperature of 102°F. This rate of cooling helps inhibit the beginning of bacterial growth. The following two methods can help achieve a good rate of cooling:

1. Ice Bath Method

- a. Place ice water in a large container and submerge colostrum containers. Ice alone will not surround the colostrum containers well enough to achieve good cooling.
- b. Keep an eye on the ice – if it melts, add more to maintain ice in water at all times.
- c. Smaller containers of colostrum will chill faster.
- d. Metal containers transmit and therefore lose heat more rapidly than plastic ones.

2. Ice Bottle Method

- a. Using a 1 part ice : 4 parts colostrum ratio...
- b. Use clean plastic bottles (e.g. empty pop bottles with wrappers removed for best cleanliness), fill them $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and freeze. Immediately after collecting colostrum, estimate volume and add the appropriate volume of ice bottles.
- c. If you have a large bucket available, use larger ice bottles for better cooling

