

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – June 2023

You're invited to our Client Appreciation Day!!

Wednesday, July 5, 2023 - 11am – 3pm

Brick Oven Pizza Truck, pasta, salads, cannoli's & more! Don't miss out on –

Door Prizes and Vendor Tables



Upcoming BioPRYN Schedule changes:

- The week of July 24, samples will only be set up once that week.

Please still have samples here by Thursday 7/27 @ noon. *Results will be by Friday, 5pm.*

- The week of August 1st, Samples will be set up only once that week. Please still have samples here by Thursday 8/3 @ noon. *Results will be reported by Saturday 8/5 – 5pm.*

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and appreciate your continued business.

Bleach Is Not Enough

The temptation to rinse out a nursing bottle rather than clean it thoroughly is high, figuring that all of the germs will be killed later with a good soak in bleach. Unfortunately, bleach cannot kill germs and rarely disinfects milk or colostrum feeding equipment. Why not?

When equipment is completely clean, chlorine bleach has an excellent kill rate for bacteria. However, “completely clean” is the key statement. If a biofilm is present on the interior surface of the equipment, it acts as a barrier between the bleach and the bacteria.

Biofilms develop easily on equipment that is not thoroughly cleaned after every use. For example, washing feeding buckets every morning but merely rinsing them at night will allow a biofilm to accumulate. Biofilms are often thin enough that we can't see or feel them. The best way to prevent a biofilm is a four-step cleaning procedure after every use.

1. Lukewarm prewash rinse
2. Brush equipment using hot water with both soap and bleach
3. Use an acid rinse
4. Allow thorough drying

When we substitute just bleach for this 4 step process, large Staph and Strep sp. biofilms may build up easily. At low levels, these bacteria are not necessarily harmful to younger calves. However, we frequently find high bacterial concentrations in milk, milk replacer, or colostrum as a result of coming into contact with feeding equipment cleaned with only bleach.

Bleach should be a part of your cleaning regimen but there is no substitute for hot water and physical cleaning.

Vaccinations Subject to *HEAT* stress

Summer heat stress needs to be considered when timing heifer vaccinations. Heat stress for month-old calves actually begins when outdoor temperatures go above 70°F. Remember, the warmer the temperatures above comfortable summer weather for us, the more likely that calves we are vaccinating might be immuno-compromised due to inadequate water consumption (dehydration).

Summer Guidelines

1. If possible, schedule vaccinations during the coolest part of the day as possible. Frequently this is very early in the day. Calf body temperatures usually peak between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.
2. If possible, wait a day or two if heat stress is intense when you plan to vaccinate. Listen to the weather reports and reschedule when temperatures are likely to be more hospitable (both to the calves and to you).
3. Remember, responding to a vaccine is a stressful event for a calf. Therefore, avoid other stresses for a couple of days before and after vaccination. These stresses might be a change in feed, grouping calves from individual housing, moving calves on a cattle trailer, weaning, sickness, dehorning and parasites.
4. As always, postpone vaccinating sick calves until they are back on full feed and “perky.” Marking the housing for these calves with a cow leg band works well to remind us to catch up vaccinating them at our next regular vaccination cycle.

2023 4-H Fair Days and Important health paper info:

- Our discounted 4-H fair days are fully booked. Fair papers can still be obtained and will require regular call & time charges. Routine clients may add fair papers on to their herd check. Please be prepared with animal identification and notify us of any additional services required.
- Don't wait! As the fairs get closer, if your papers aren't done, be sure you get them done in plenty of time for your market animals need to be vaccinated – vaccines have a meat withhold!!! BVD sampling for cattle must be sent to a lab, which takes time. ALL cattle, regardless of age, need a BVD test to attend a fair / show in New York State.
- Please check your animals tags, if they lose one it needs to be updated on your health chart – Call us IMMEDIATELY! Do not wait until you are ready to leave for the fairgrounds to contact us.
- Take a picture of your health paper on your phone so you have it readily available if something comes up, but be sure to take your health paper and any BVD testing papers with your animals to the fair / shows.

