

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter - March 2021

Important Identification Update from Our State Vets

The USDA is encouraging all farms to transition from steel identification tags to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) "840" tags which will provide the cattle industry the best protection against rapid spread of animal diseases, as well as meet the growing expectations of foreign and domestic buyers. At this time there is no deadline stated for this transition, however, we recommend farms to begin their use of RFID tags and take advantage of free tags that are available through our office.

It is important to note that despite any future actions USDA-APHIS may take regarding official identification devices, the underlying ADT regulations apply only to sexually intact beef animals over 18 months of age moving in interstate commerce, cattle used for exhibition, rodeo and recreational events, and **all dairy cattle**. USDA's goals to enhance Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) have not changed; their aim is to:

- Encourage the use of electronic identification for animals that move interstate under the current ADT regulation;
- Enhance electronic sharing of basic animal disease traceability data;
- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter; and
- Increase the use of electronic health certificates



New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets currently has a limited supply of "840" RFID button tags for NY farms (limits do apply). The ear tag order form can be found at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/animals/cattle-bison-other-bovidae>. A premises identification number (PIN) is required to purchase official ID tags. If you need to request a PIN or not sure if you already have one, you can contact Attica Veterinary Associates, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, Erin Bond at 518-457-3502 or email the request to: erin.bond@agriculture.ny.gov. You can purchase tags through Attica Veterinary Associates or from any of the approved tag vendors listed at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_ain.pdf. Approved official 840 RFID tags can come in many colors, styles and sizes, but must have the following:

1. US Shield
2. a 15-digit number starting with '840'
3. be tamper proof/one time use
4. Manufacturer's Logo
5. say "unlawful to remove"
6. come with an RFID chip



These eartags are for use only at the assigned premise and may not be redistributed, shared or traded to other farms. Only one official eartag may be applied to cattle except in special situations such as cattle being shipped to Canada and a record of eartag use must be kept for 5 years after tags are applied. If you have questions about RFID tags and the free tags offered through our office, you can contact Dr. Melanie Hemenway at melanie.hemenway@agriculture.ny.gov

How do I get 840 tags?

- Please contact us at atticavettech@yahoo.com if you would like us to email you an order form for the free state allotment.
- We can order you some using your farm premise Id;
- Want tags that have your farm Id for the cow on them – we can order those for you too!
 - Tag numbers in series
 - Tags with numbers on matching backs
 - There are many possibilities – please call us with your specific needs!

Now Is The Time To Defrost

Hard to even think this, but spring and summer are on their way. Farm refrigerators have to work hard in the summertime conditions to keep our vaccine supplies at recommended storage temperatures – 36-39F (2-4C). In a recent survey of dairy farm refrigerators, only 27% maintained a temperature between 35F and 45F during more than 95% of the 48-hour test period. One out of four units maintained that temperature for less than 5% of the test period. Do you keep a thermometer in your unit to check on this?

Now is the time to get ready for summer. Here are a few tips to keep refrigerators both efficient and cold enough to keep vaccines and colostrum at ideal storage temperatures:

- Manual defrost units need to be defrosted regularly. Guideline on frost buildup? You start using extra electricity as soon as frost buildup exceeds ¼ inch on coils. In addition, iced-up coils often cannot maintain below 40°F temperatures when challenged by hot external conditions even if the unit runs continuously.
- Auto-defrost models need to have drains that work. Many units have an evaporator pan you can check. If the drain is working properly, the pan should be wet when the unit shuts off. Because auto-defrost models vary widely in design, you should check the manual that accompanied the unit (if you can find it) for proper maintenance practices.
- All refrigerators have refrigerant-cooling coils usually located either on the back or underneath the unit. Dirty coils may prevent the unit from reaching the thermostat setting even if the refrigerator condenser operates continuously. Moreover, dirty coils usually mean higher electricity use. If you have a portable compressed air unit for inflating flat tires it is ideal for blowing out refrigerator cooling coils.
- For long term efficiency, consider relocating the refrigerator where the environment does not get excessively hot, especially in summer months.

Can We Put Away the Jacket?

Spring is here! Almost. It's great to shed heavy winter clothes, but remember that our calves have to burn energy to maintain their body temperature of 101F any time the temperature around them is below 60F! Let's keep the calf coats on these girls for another month. And, remember to maintain our winter milk feeding rates – it is still getting below freezing at night time until mid-May.

Wanted:

Looking to purchase small square bales of 2nd crop hay – 716-652-4676