

# AVA Newsletter

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August 2015

## Subclinical Mastitis

Clinical mastitis is usually easy to detect – cows will have hot, hard quarters with flakes, thick chunks, or watery milk. Subclinical mastitis is much more difficult to detect – milk will appear perfectly normal yet the somatic cell count (SCC) may be greatly elevated. Treatment options for subclinical cows vary. Some cows may self-cure whereas others may have chronic mastitis if left untreated. Please consult with your veterinarian to discuss detection strategies and treatment protocols.

## Interested in learning more about calves?

If you are a regular blog reader, you may be interested in adding “Calves with Sam” to your list of favorites. This blog, written by Dr. Sam Leadley with Attica Veterinary Associates, is about making calf rearing more profitable. It often features “on-farm” observations and profit tips. Newly published research findings are added as well. Google “Calves with Sam” to find the link.

## For Sale:

Dry sawdust & baled shredded fine cut paper. 716-457-3811 or 716-430-3747

## Charles’s joke of the month:

Did you hear about the guy with the broken pencil?

He said it was pointless.

## Healthy Heifers This Fall

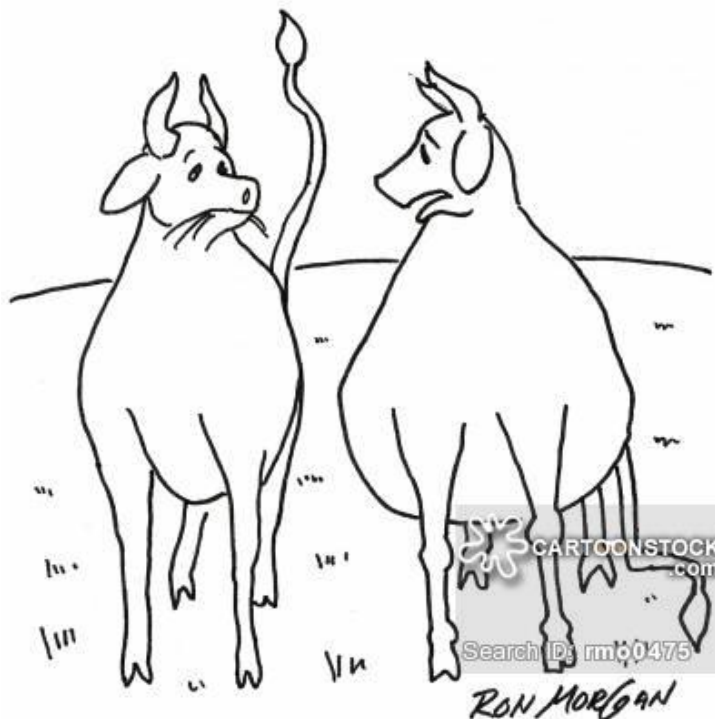
The risk level for internal parasites will vary depending on the outdoor environment for the heifers this summer. If heifers are on a pasture that is used from year-to-year, their risk level for internal parasites is high. Another risk factor is the number of animals on the pasture or dry lot. Higher rates of stocking raise the environmental contamination level, increasing the chances of heifers being exposed to an infective dose of the parasite eggs.

Plan now for your fall deworming for heifers. Heifers with any access to pastures, even if only part-time, will benefit from a deworming program. As we bring heifers into winter housing this fall we should consider low stress handling techniques to make administration of dewormers convenient and safe for both the heifers and workers.

Consult with your herd veterinarian to determine which dewormer is best for your situation. There are many topical (pour-ons) and oral options available. Helpful information to design your protocol includes which dewormer was used this past spring or in the fall of 2014, and whether the animals will be in headlocks or a chute. If you have a large number of heifers to treat it might be more practical to include dewormer in their TMR.

Cost for products vary. For example, we stock Cydectin pour-on in 1 liter containers for \$115.40 and this will treat 40 heifers weighing 550 pounds. The dose depends on weight so for larger heifers this 1 liter might treat only 20 animals.

Yes, it may seem odd to be talking with your herd veterinarian in August about fall worming of heifers. Before we know it, the calendar will be late September or early October and the heifers will be coming into winter housing. Think about having your heifer deworming supplies on hand by early September – that is only 9 days away!



"I'm stuffed. Guess my eyes were bigger than my stomachs."