

# Attica Veterinary Associates, PC

## February 2019 Newsletter



### Freezin' for a Reason

Thanks to all for their support for the 2019 Polar Plunge. Ted's Polar Bears raised \$6861.00 for Special Olympics of WNY. We plunged on a sunny, clear day and it was refreshing!

### Upcoming Meetings

- Labor Road Show II. March 21 2019 – CCE Wyoming County, Warsaw NY. 8:30-4, \$55 at the door.

### For Sale

- 36 Deluxe EXL Calf hutches/ Agri-Plastics, \$310 each includes fence and outside pail holders. Call Ted West at 585-739-2783

### Wanted

- Needs small bales 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> cut small bales of hay

## How to Avoid an FDA Warning Letter

99% of drug residue violations occur because of human error. The last thing any farm needs is for a stupid mistake of forgetting to write treatments down or making a mistake on what the drug's withholding is and end up with a four-page drug residue warning letter from the FDA. The number of animals tested at the slaughter plants is going up and the sensitivity of the tests have increased. This stresses the need for farms to manage their drug use effectively and to have excellent recordkeeping systems.

New York State has a free, voluntary program to help with this. A New York State veterinarian will review your farm's management on drug use, storage and recordkeeping. Some of our vets have previously performed residue violation inspections for the FDA, so we know what to look for and ways you can avoid problems. We also strongly encourage your herd veterinarian to participate, we will even pay for their time to be there at the farm visit so there is no cost to you.

What do we look at? We will assess your current management and recordkeeping to determine if there are areas for improvement. We will help you and your veterinarian develop: a) a drug list for your farm; b) protocols for each of these drugs; c) effective recordkeeping systems; d) safeguards against accidental drug use; and e) culling practices so "red flag" animals are not being sent to market.

The FDA is seeing increasing residues from Ceftiofur products (Naxel, Excenel, Excede). If your farm uses any of these products, we strongly urge you to discuss with your veterinarian when and how you are using them. It is also important to train your employees on proper drug choice, administration and recordkeeping. This can all be a part of this outreach program. If you are interested, you can contact your herd veterinarian or contact the program coordinator, Dr. Melanie Hemenway at 585-313-7541 or email [melanie.hemenway@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:melanie.hemenway@agriculture.ny.gov).

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