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# AVA NEWSLETTER

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## Update on PETA litigation decision regarding the Freedom of Information Law and NYCHAPS

You may have heard the report that PETA had sued Ag and Markets claiming that they withheld too much information when PETA FOILED (requested information under the Freedom of information Law) a farm's records several years ago. The Court ruled that Ag and Markets was justified in what they withheld and that there were only 4 additional documents that Ag and Markets had to release (these documents included dry matter adjustment charts and employee meeting agenda). All protocols, specific farm stats and medical information including testing and test results were not allowed to be released.

Ag and Markets expressed that it was a tremendous relief that they did not have to turn over information that they felt needed to be protected. If you would like a copy of the court document or have any questions regarding this or the NYSCHAP program, please contact Melanie Hemenway, the NYSCHAP program coordinator at 585-313-7541.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed  
to this year's polar plunge!!!**



**Polar Plunge Rochester raised an amazing \$272,667 this year!!!  
Ted Schwytzer was the #5 top fundraiser overall!!!**

## ***Bleach Is Not Enough***

It is very tempting to just rinse out a nursing bottle rather than clean it thoroughly. We figure that all the “germs” can be killed with a good soak with bleach.

The bad news is that in most cases bleach actually cannot kill the “germs.” So, why doesn’t it kill bacteria on milk or colostrum feeding equipment?

If equipment is completely clean, chlorine bleach does give an excellent kill rate for bacteria. Notice the words, “completely clean” in the above statement. If a biofilm exists on the interior surface of a nursing bottle it acts as a buffer between the bleach active ingredient (sodium hypochlorite) and the bacteria.

It’s easy for a biofilm to develop on equipment if it is not cleaned completely after every use. For example, washing feeding buckets every morning and then just rinsing after PM feeding allows the biofilm to accumulate.

These films often are thin enough that we can’t see or feel them. However, be assured, they can be present unless we have a good four-step washup procedure that is followed after every use.

Remember, (1) use a lukewarm prewash rinse, (2) brush using hot water for the wash with both detergent and bleach, (3) use an acid rinse and (4) allow the equipment to dry thoroughly between uses.

When we substitute a bleach rinse for regular washing, equipment biofilms support large Staph and Strep species populations. At low levels, these bacteria are not necessarily harmful to young calves. However, we frequently find high bacterial concentrations in milk, milk replacer or colostrum that come in contact with bottles, tube feeders and pails that are cleaned by “bleaching” them.

Use bleach all the time when washing. Soak with bleach and hot water occasionally to back up an effective washing program. Or, you may wish to use chlorine dioxide solution as a soaking liquid. Soaking clean equipment for at least one minute in a 100ppm chlorine dioxide solution will kill any remaining pathogens including cryptosporidia. The receptionist at the clinic’s front desk can give you directions for using chlorine dioxide. She can show you the long-shelf life packets available as well.

### **FOR SALE**

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