

AVA Newsletter



January 2016

Polar Plunge

It's that time of year! Ted Schwytzer and Dr. Susan will be jumping in Lake Ontario on February 14 to support the Special Olympics. Interested in joining us or supporting our team? Visit www.polarplunge.net and click on "Donate" to support Ted Schwytzer. Pictures of a freezing team to follow!

Year End Statements in with this month's bill, change from past:

Please note that the year end statements are different than in the past. We switched billing programs part way through the year, so there are 3 pages. There is one page from Jan 1-April 23 from the old system. There are 2 pages from April 24 – Dec. 31 from the new system. Our new system has separate papers - Treatments and Inventory.

Around the Country

An estimated 35,000 cows were killed during a snowstorm in Texas and New Mexico the day after Christmas as wind blew snowdrifts up to 14 feet. Many surviving cows are battling frostbite and metabolic challenges from stress. The region normally produces as much as 10% of the nation's supply of milk.

Farm Show

Come visit us at the Erie County Fairgrounds for the 6th Annual WNY Farm Show! The show runs Thursday 2/4 and Friday 2/5 9am-5pm and Saturday 2/6 9am-3pm. We look forward to seeing you! Come and pick up a coupon for a free bioPRYN sample!

For Sale:

Dry sawdust bedding by the 10 wheeler load. Call Dan George at 716-430-3747

Attica Veterinary Associates
116 Prospect Street
Attica, NY 14011
585-591-2660

Refrigerator or Storage Cabinet?

Summary:

1. **Monitor Internal Temperature**
2. **Avoid shock loading or pre-chill warm liquids to reduce impact.**
3. **Consider a separate refrigerator just for high value products.**

Monitor temperature: Not too warm and not too cold.

The value of products stored in the refrigerator will likely drive the level of sophistication required for temperature monitoring. Add up the value of medications and vaccines stores in your fridge – does the total come anywhere close to \$500? Recall that in addition to vaccines, some medications require refrigerated storage (35-45°F, 2-7°C) as well. Many of these products can be damaged or inactivated by temperatures that fluctuate over 45°F or below freezing (32°F).

Monitoring is inexpensive. Refrigerator thermometers were priced as low as \$2 and there were many choices available for under \$10. Ideally, the thermometer should be easy to read when opening the door to add or remove contents from the fridge.

Avoid “shock loading”.

“Shock loading” means adding a large enough heat source to raise the refrigerator’s internal temperature above 45°F and keeping the temperature there for an extended period of time. An example would be adding three or more gallons of warm colostrum.

Colostrum cooling research has shown that as little as three gallons of warm colostrum in two quart nursing bottles would bring internal refrigerator temperatures to over 50°F. One load of ten bottles of 90°F colostrum sustained a temperature above 45F (the upper level for storing baccines) for 250 minutes. Not only will the vaccines be above the appropriate handling temperatures, the colostrum won’t cool appropriately either.

Pre-chill warm liquids

Pre-chilling means to cool colostrum to 60°F from body temperature, at which its collected, to shorten the time that the internal temperature of the fridge will be elevated above 45F.

Store high value products in their own refrigerator

If temperature sensitive animal health products are stored on-farm, it may make sense to purchase a separate compact unit for them. This is especially true when the value of the products exceeds the price of the refrigerator. A typical dormitory-sized fridge costs between \$100-\$300.