

Attica Veterinary Associates, PC

January 2019 Newsletter



Freezin' for a Reason

It's that time of year again! Ted Schwytzer and his crew will be plunging into Lake Ontario in February to raise money for Special Olympics. Interested in donating? Please go to PolarPlunge.net, click on "Donate", and search "Teddy's Polar Bears". We appreciate all supportive words and donations for such a great cause!

Student Perspective: Esther Cahill and Ciara Hayes, Ireland

Facing with a barn housing five hundred head of cattle comes as a shock to the system for the international student more accustomed to the green fields and one hundred cow herds of Ireland. The absolute size, scale and numbers of the lactating herds combined with such massive infrastructure quickly puts the small based Irish family business in a very different league to the highly industrial operations of western New York State.

From an international perspective one of the most impressive aspects of the dairy industry in this part of the world is the skill level and aptitude of the work force. To have confirming rather than making initial diagnoses, and seeing stethoscopes being so confidently handled by farm hands, speaks volumes to the knowledge and understanding that laborers here possess regarding the health of the dairy cow.

The USA is light years ahead in Apple Technology. Irish farmers will soon be replacing iPhones on their Christmas list for CowManager Ear tags and Rumination Collars. The ability to track cattle rumination with these devices and by extension overall animal health is a truly impressive piece of technology and would add greatly to cow management on the Irish side of the ocean.

From an outsider's perspective, the knowledge and skill of farm workers in combination with the highly informative cattle technology allows :

1. For a careful critique of the health status of a dairy herd.
2. For micromanagement to a level rarely seen in other parts of the world.

Although the dairy industry may not currently be blossoming, many of the key ingredients appear to be in place to allow for maximization of yields leading to greater profitability.

For Sale

- 5130 Case IH 6400 hours Best offer, Klaus Model 355 Bailer/wrapper Good condition \$27000, Val Metal Bedding Chopper Hydraulic drive like new \$3500, 812 Ubler feedcart like new \$3600, call Dan at 585-813-2958 or 585-592-0552.

Avoid Making Bacteria Soup for Calves

Put the brakes on bacteria growth in colostrum if we are not going to feed it immediately.

Take advantage of an inexpensive procedure to arrest the rapid growth of bacteria in colostrum – lower the temperature. For colostrum that we do not intend to feed within 30 minutes after it is collected, our goal should be to lower the temperature from cow body temperature (about 102°) to 60° within 30 minutes after it comes out of the cow. Remember, our goal is to chill colostrum to 60° in the 30 minutes before bacteria begin to grow. Bacteria will double every 20 minutes in colostrum at cow body temperature. Rapid chilling is the name of the game.

Ice-Bath Method:

Sounds simple. Get large container for bath, water, ice, and containers of colostrum. There are a few tips that will help make this successful:

1. Always use water –placing colostrum containers in a tub with just ice/snow is less effective than ice water.
2. Maintain some ice/snow in the water all the time – that will hold the solution just above freezing for effective chilling.
3. Some folks report freezing big “hockey pucks” of ice using containers they make by cutting off the bottom two inches of gallon jugs.
4. Use smaller containers for colostrum (for example 2 quarts) to speed up chilling (compared to one large five-gallon plastic bucket filled with colostrum).
5. If available, metal containers transmit heat more rapidly than plastic ones and therefore cool faster.

Ice-Bottles Method

Use the ratio of one part ice to four parts of colostrum. For example, submerge one quart of ice in a very clean plastic bottle directly into four quarts of colostrum. Fill clean plastic bottles (for example, empty bottles from chocolate milk or soft drinks) $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and freeze. Immediately after collecting colostrum, estimate volume and add the appropriate number of ice bottles.

A few tips to make this work well:

1. It is easier to keep the outside of bottles clean if they are not used too many times. When cleaning these bottles remember to unscrew the caps to clean away colostrum that sticks underneath.
2. Always remove any plastic wrappers on the outside of the bottles
3. Fill bottles only $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water – more water will expand and burst bottles in the freezer.
4. If you have a large colostrum collection bucket, consider placing 2 or 3 quarts of ice in the bucket before collecting the colostrum – that way you don't have to remember to add ice later.

Reminder

2018 Year End Summaries will be included with January 2019 invoices. These are helpful for tax purposes. Please call the office with any questions at 585-591-2660.