

# Attica Veterinary Associates

116 Prospect Street, Attica, NY 14011

585-591-2660 / fax 585-591-2898 / Text line 585-356-3420

[www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com)

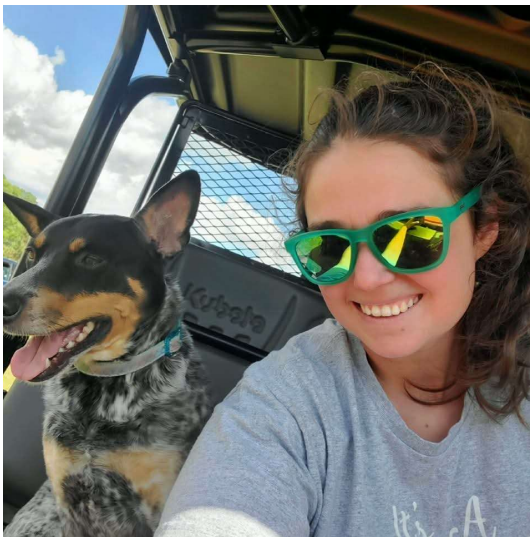


Newsletter – January 2025

## **2024 Year Summaries are in the envelope with your statement this month!**

A 2024 year end summary of services provided (labeled “Treatments”) and items purchased are included with your January 2025 statement. These summaries can be added to find the total veterinary cost billed for the year. If you did not receive one of these and would like one please e-mail our bookkeeper, Kathy - [ratticav@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ratticav@rochester.rr.com).

**Please note this is NOT a separate bill to pay!**



### **Welcome to Kelly Leatherman!**

Please join us in welcoming Kelly Leatherman to our office staff. Kelly grew up on a small dairy in Southeastern PA. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in dairy science-management in 2016. She moved to Western NY in 2017 and has worked on a few large dairies since. Kelly enjoys reading in her free time as well as spending time with her dog Ellie and step kids James and Quinn.

## **Cold Weather Adaptations**

Winter finally showed up - complete with cold, wind, and snow. Animals, especially young calves and animals fed lean diets, are using more energy to maintain their normal body temperature. Energy contributes to maintenance or weight gain and immune system function. Shivering may be an indication that an animal is too cold and is a waste of precious energy. The following are some cold weather strategies to help maintain or gain weight in the face of extreme weather:

### Feeding Strategies:

- Increase frequency – add a third feeding for calves
- Increase calories – feed calorie dense feeds such as extra grain or corn

### Housing Strategies:

- Decrease drafts
- Bedding must be dry – wet bedding may actually wick heat from calves
- Provide deep bedding for nesting

- Remove snow accumulation from hutches

#### Supplemental Heat Strategies:

- Blankets help insulate calves. Blankets must be clean and dry and applied only to dry calves.
- Newborns lose heat the fastest due to their surface area to volume ratio. Heat lamps or warming rooms for newborn calves may reduce heat loss. Please be careful with heat sources and be sure they are not dusty and have adequate air flow to avoid fires.

Very important - always check waterers to ensure they are still flowing.

### **Bedding Calves in Barns During Cold Weather**

Research supports the need for good ventilation and plenty of bedding in cold weather. A Wisconsin based research team said, “Calf pens in naturally ventilated calf barns frequently become microenvironments of poorer air hygiene within the barn. Increased ventilation rates effectively improve air hygiene in the alleys, but solid fronts, rear panels, and covers result in the accumulation of airborne bacteria within the pens. The accumulation of high bacterial counts in the pens was associated with increasing prevalence of calves with respiratory disease.”

Solid fronts and covers are sometimes recommended to prevent drafts and chilling but **it appears that supplying deep straw bedding in which the calf can “nest” is a preferable strategy.** Despite straw bedding was associated with higher pen counts than wood-based bedding, the thermal control benefits of nesting appear to outweigh the increased airborne bacteria associated with straw.

Although enclosing the pen with solid fronts or covers should be avoided, a single solid barrier between calves is associated with decreased prevalence of respiratory disease. The study suggests that the ideal pen provides 3 square meters (32 square feet) or more area, has solid panels on 2 sides to separate each calf from the next, mesh panels in front and rear, and **deep loose bedding during months when the temperature fall below the thermoneutral zone of the calf (60°F for newborns, 40°F for month old calves).**

#### **For Sale:**

**Clean wheat straw**

**50lb wire bales**

**Price dependent on quantity desired**

**Blumer Dairy 585-356-3571**

Want to place an advertisement in our newsletter? Need to sell something, need to hire someone?

E-mail your ad to [atticavettech@yahoo.com](mailto:atticavettech@yahoo.com)

Must be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.