

# *Attica Veterinary Associates, PC*

## *June 2018 Newsletter*

### **Client Appreciation Day**

Please join us for lunch and new product information at the clinic on Wednesday, June 27 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. We are pleased to have this opportunity to show our appreciation for your business and look forward to your visit!

### **BioPryn 4<sup>th</sup> of July Schedule**

We will follow our normal BioPryn schedule for the July 4th Holiday, as our office will be open 8:00am – 12:00pm that day. Charles will be following his regular pick up schedule as well, please contact him if you need different arrangement for the week.

Please also be aware that if you mail samples to the clinic they may arrive on a different schedule due to the mail holiday schedule. We will plate samples as we receive them as normal.

### **AVA Staff Updates**

Kathy is our new receptionist and will be working the front desk on Monday and Friday. She is excited to speak to everyone and looks forward to learning more about agriculture.

### **For Sale**

- Cows, feed, and equipment for sale. Please call Fred Bowman at 585-993-1784.
- Badger BN 950 Chopper Wagon – 16ft, 3 beaters, Tandem running gear. Asking \$4500. Call Robert Koithan at (716)-807-1965

## Prepare Calves for Hot Summer Weather

Calves spend extra energy to keep cool in summer months. Energy requirements to maintain body temperature has been estimated to increase between 20 – 30%. Calves need all the help we can give them to stay healthy and growing considering their feed intake often drops during hot weather.

For calves housed indoors, ventilation and air turnover is key. Fans should be kept on anytime the temperature is over 70F. Outdoor housing adaptations include facing hutches to the east or north, adjusting the amount of space between hutches, and placing concrete blocks under the back edge of the hutch for elevation to increase airflow. Using sand bedding instead of straw may be helpful, too.

Feeding more milk or milk replacer can help with reduced energy intake from calf starter grain. Remember that energy used to keep core body temperature down can rise up to 25%. This is equal to temperatures dropping to 40F in the fall. For very young calves, this might require an extra quart of milk mid-day to maintain adequate energy levels for high rates of growth.

Heat-stressed calves may have sunken eyes, dry mouth and nose, irregular pulses, and possibly cold ears and legs. Milk feeding is not enough to meet the hydration needs of heat-stressed pre-weaned calves. Clean, fresh water needs to be in front of calves 24/7. Young calves on bottles will need special care- sometimes they do not recognize water in a pail.

What about calves with scours? They are at very high risk during times of heat stress. Always take immediate action – delays in providing extra care cannot wait until the next feeding. Provide plenty of free-choice water. If in doubt about diarrhea-related fluid losses, provide electrolytes at least once daily (separate electrolyte feedings from milk by at least 90 minutes).

If you do not already know how to use a “skin tenting” test to check for hydration levels in calves, ask a veterinarian or veterinary technician to show you how to perform and interpret the test. Weak calves may need SQ or IV fluids. Check with your veterinarian for re-hydration protocols that best fit your farm’s needs. Please remember to reduce calf-handling activities on hot days. Heat stress may be exacerbated by activities such as vaccinations, dehorning, and moving groups. Performing these tasks as early in the morning as possible can reduce stress levels for calves (and employees). Spreading these activities out over several days may also decrease stress levels.