
AVA NEWSLETTER

116 Prospect St., Attica, NY
(585) 591-2660

www.atticacows.com

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Ketosis Testing Utilizing a Portable BHB Meter



Ketosis can be measured by several different methods including blood, urine and milk. Until recently, urine and milk testing has been the most widely used due to the low cost and easy cow side testing. However, blood BHB (beta-hydroxybutyric acid) levels are much more accurate than either urine or milk tests and therefore, are considered the “gold standard” for ketosis testing. Now that portable BHB meters (such as the precision Xtra) are available at a

ketosis checks can be done easily, inexpensively and right on farm with great accuracy.

Cows with either subclinical or clinical ketosis can be identified using the cow side BHB meter.

Subclinical ketosis – Fresh cows with increased BHB, but no clinical signs of ketosis (off feed, decreased milk yield), have subclinical ketosis. Cows with subclinical ketosis have an increased risk of developing fresh cow diseases such as metritis, mastitis, displaced abomasum, and clinical ketosis.

Clinical ketosis -Clinical ketosis typically occurs in cows during early lactation (usually the first 30 DIM). Cows with clinical ketosis are dull, have a decreased appetite, are losing weight and have decreased milk yield. Occasionally, cows with clinical ketosis will show nervous signs, such as licking and blindness.

Ketosis testing on your farm

Ketosis testing utilizing a blood BHB meter can be used in two ways. One way is to examine an individual cow or cows in conjunction with a fresh cow exam. In this case, the cow has already been identified as “off feed”, or abnormal in some other way (increased temperature, decreased milk production). Ketosis testing is then used as an aid in determining the appropriate treatment.

A second use is as a whole herd-monitoring tool. In herd-based monitoring, blood BHB levels are used to determine if the herd has an underlying problem that justifies further investigation. A test group of 12 otherwise normal cows less than 50 days in milk is ideal. By testing a small group of cows on a regular basis problems can be identified early. This is also another great way to monitor your transition cow program.

BHB meters and test strips are available for purchase through the veterinary clinic. We also offer herd monitoring services utilizing this test. Ask your veterinarian for more information on how blood BHB herd monitoring can help your farm.

1416 OXBO MERGER

Contact Ted West at 585-739-2783

STRAW

Large Bales – processed wheat

Contact 585-591-1652 for more information

SHAVINGS

3.5cu ft (3500 ft lbs compressed)

Contact 585-591-1652 for more information



Needed: *Round or small bales of hay*

Call 585-591-2533 if you have any available for sale



New GnRH product

GONAbreed

GONAbreed is the first reproductive hormone ever to be approved by the FDA to synchronize estrous cycles in lactating dairy cows and beef cows. GONAbreed has also been FDA-approved for the treatment of ovarian follicular cysts in dairy cattle. Ask your veterinarian about this new product.