

# AVA Newsletter



November 2015

## BioPRYN Blood Testing

BioPRYN is a blood test to detect pregnancy. In particular, the test detects the presence of a protein (PSPB) produced by the placenta of a growing fetus. Blood samples from cows and heifers can be submitted at 28 days after breeding (cows must be at least 73 DIM to avoid a false positive). BioPRYN is 99% accurate in its detection of an open cow. False positives are reported when early embryonic death has occurred but the PSPB remains in cow's system for up to 2 months.

## BioPRYN Holiday Schedule:

Thanksgiving – samples must arrive by Wed 11/25 by noon

Christmas – all samples must arrive by Tues 12/22 by noon, no Thurs or Fri tests will be run

New Years – all samples must arrive by Tues 12/29 by noon, no Thurs or Fri tests will be run

## For Sale:

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

## Holiday Schedule:

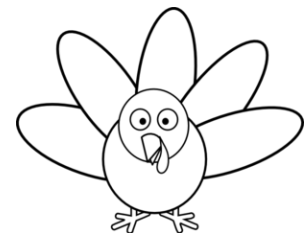
Thanksgiving – Closed for routine services

Christmas Eve/New Years Eve – Closed at noon

Christmas Day/New Years Day – Closed for routine services

We are available for emergencies 24/7/365 at 585-591-2660.

Wishing you a happy and festive holiday season!



Attica Veterinary Associates  
116 Prospect Street  
Attica, NY 14011  
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## Use Blankets this Winter?

### Why would a calf need a coat or blanket?

Research shows that, in cold housing, blanketed calves in sub-freezing weather gain slightly more weight than those without blankets. Expect an advantage of about 10 to 12 pounds for calves weaned between 7 to 8 weeks. All this assumes good colostrum management and adequate nutrition.

Very young calves benefit from blankets more than older ones. At birth, calves start to use body reserves to keep warm when the environment drops below the mid-50's ("critical temperature"). By the time calves are one month old, this critical temperature drops to nearly 40 degrees. Thus, if your budget can only stretch to purchase a few blankets for your preweaned calves, be sure to use them on the youngest ones.

Are your calves lying down in a draft-free environment? For example, the back of a calf hutch is quite draft free. An open pen in a barn is not draft free. Calves housed in open pens in barns will benefit more from blankets than calves that can control air movement by moving back farther into a well-bedded hutch.



### Management Tips:

- Blankets are more effective when put on dry calves rather than wet ones. Aim for a "fluff-dry" hair coat to take maximum advantage of blankets.
- The drier and cleaner the blanket, the better it will insulate the calf.
- Aim for bedding that keeps blankets relatively clean and dry.

Not familiar with calf blankets? They usually fasten in place with straps and/or ties. Velcro is the most popular fastener. They may be made of insulating-type fabrics such as wool, polyester blends, and Thinsulate®. Costs range from about approximately \$25 to \$50 each. The Holstein-size coats we sell at our clinic are \$27.55 for plain quilted (blue). Single Thinsulate Holstein blankets are \$39 (black, #5289). Double Thinsulate Holstein blankets are \$45 (black or pink). Jersey sizes available in single (black) or double (pink). All are machine washable.

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