

Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – November 2021

New Addition!

We would like to congratulate our route truck driver, Chris Curtiss, and his family on their new arrival. Anita Jane Curtiss entered the world on 11/10/21 – 7lbs 11oz. 21 inches. We are so happy for them!



Holiday Hours:

Please note – emergency services available 24/7/365 (585-591-2660),

Do not call the text line for emergencies as it's not manned 24/7

- Thanksgiving 11/25 – office closed
- Christmas Eve - Friday - 12/24 – office closes at noon
- Christmas Day – Saturday - 12/25 – office closed
- New Years Eve – Friday 12/31 – office closes at noon
- New Years Day – Saturday 1/1/22 – office closed

Calf Blanket Tips

As temperatures fall below 55°F for an extended period of time, young calves have to burn extra energy to maintain their body core temperatures; blankets cut this energy loss. Here are three conditions for use:

1. The smaller the calf, the greater the potential for her to lose body heat. That's because her ratio of surface to body mass is much greater than for even a 100 pound heifer. These small calves may be the youngest ones or calves with especially low birth weights like small breeds or twins.
2. The greater the air movement around the calves, the greater potential benefits of calf blankets. Group pens often have lots of drafts.
3. The colder the weather, the greater the potential for benefits from using calf blankets. November to April are blanket months in western NY.

Blanket management tips include:

1. The drier and cleaner the blanket, the better it will insulate a calf.
2. 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.
3. Aim for bedding that keeps blankets relatively clean and dry.
4. Blankets are most cost-effective for short-term use. If you have a limited number of blankets, give priority in cold weather to blanketing smaller and younger calves. By the time most calves are eating 2 quarts of calf starter a day they benefit very little from blankets except in extraordinarily cold weather.

The average cost of a blanket is \$28-\$45. They are available in a variety of sizes and styles, with various fasteners, such as straps, ties, Velcro, and buckles, and in fabrics like wool, polyester blends, and insulating foams. We carry blankets that are machine washable to encourage easy to maintain, good hygiene, as well as regular washing and maintenance to ensure optimal function and reduced disease spread.

Teat Dipping in Cold Weather

These 5 tips will help in managing teat health during cold weather condition.

1. **PLAN FOR IT.** Post-dipping is equally important in cold weather as in summer. Talk with your vet about your choices.
2. **MAINTAIN A LOG.** Know your teat end conditions during all seasons.
3. **REVIEW YOUR MILKING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT SETTINGS.** Are all the steps in your milking procedures being followed for every cow at every milking? Are scheduled maintenance jobs up to date?
4. **EDUCATE YOUR MILKERS.** How will cold weather affect teat surfaces? Rough teat ends require more care to get clean.
5. **OPTIMIZE THE HOUSING ENVIRONMENT.** Make sure cows have plenty of clean, dry bedding. This might mean using more bedding and bedding more frequently. Check for drafts and provide wind blocks. Monitor wind speed and temperature in your barns. These cautions are especially important for fresh cows as these cows often have swelling and less blood flow in the udder.
6. **TALK WITH YOUR VET ABOUT COLD WEATHER MANAGEMENT.**



During this time of Thanksgiving, we would like to deeply thank you all for your patronage. We appreciate each and every one of you!