

# Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – November 2022

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## **Thanksgiving Holiday Hours:**

Just a note that our office will be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving. As usual, we will have a doctor on call.

\*\*Please note that all bioPRYN samples need to be here by Wednesday 11/23 at 5pm when we close in order to be run that week.

## **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.

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.**



## **Are you using your intranasal vaccine appropriately?**

The ever changing and developing immune system of a calf can make vaccination a challenge. During the first few weeks of life, the calf's immune response depends greatly on the colostrum they received shortly after birth. The maternal antibodies they receive from colostrum help to fight infection as the calf's own immune system continues to develop. Before 5-6 weeks of age many injectable vaccines have limited effectiveness because the maternal antibodies actually block or inhibit the calves' response to vaccination. However, this is not the case with intra nasal vaccination. Due to the fact that intranasal vaccination works directly on the respiratory tissues it is not effected by maternal antibodies. This is why we can give this vaccine as early as the first day of life. However, it does not mean that we should not be aware of several limitations. Intranasal vaccine, if given too frequently can actually block its own effectiveness. Once the intranasal vaccine is given it should not be given again in less than 2 weeks' time. The initial vaccine has a duration of effectiveness for approximately 45-60 days. If you are going to booster this vaccine you should wait approximately 2 months from the initial vaccination.

