

# Attica Veterinary Associates

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[www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com)



Newsletter – August 2023

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## **Housekeeping notes:**

- Our office will close at noon on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. As always, our doctors will be available on call.
- If you have an emergency be sure to call the clinic number 585-591-2660. Often our vets are on another call and don't get a chance to receive your message when you contact them instead. Calling the office directly will allow us to prioritize your emergency!
- Always call our main number 585-591-2660, do not call the text line – 585-356-3420 – check your contacts and be sure you have it saved correctly. Recently we've had a lot of calls to the text line and it is not answered.

## **Keeping Pre-weaned Calves Dry During Hot Weather**

We often emphasize feeding calves more water during hot weather. Older calves may drink three or more gallons a day. It is no surprise that as calves drink more water, they also urinate more.

For calves housed individually in pens, all this extra urine ends up in the bedding. If the ground under the pens allows for drainage, keep in mind that this effluent stream is going to have an increase in volume to be managed. These pens may stay fairly dry in hot weather but be sure to do a “knee-drop” check regularly. Add enough fresh bedding to avoid bedding that is damp enough to generate a strong ammonia odor.

If the pen base is concrete, the barn design is going to determine the urine flow. A sloped base will direct the increased volume to a gutter/drain. Regular flushing of the gutter (for example, weekly) should decrease the potential for both fly breeding places and the amount of ammonia released from the gutter.

If the slope is minimal, most of the urine will remain in the bedding with the excess seeping out along the edges – this seep margin will support fly populations as well as generate ammonia gas. This is a tough hot weather management challenge.

The best solution is to plan on removing the bedding part way through the eight-week pre-weaned cycle. If it is possible to only clean out pens once, then cleaning out at six weeks and again after weaning will require the least labor and maintain the best air quality. Consider using wood-based bedding (saw dust, shavings) as part of the base to increase the water-holding capacity.

### Bottom Line:

1. Keep feeding water – don't try to solve wet bedding issues by feeding less water
2. Regularly monitor bedding using a “knee-drop” test
3. Be aware of the potential for saturated bedding to generate unhealthful ammonia gas increasing the risk for respiratory illness.

## **Teat Dip Can Increase Profit:**

Most of us just think teat dip is teat dip and that as long as we think it is on the teats = good enough.

Here are some crucial points about teat dip on any farm:

1. Teat Dip is not useful unless it is actually being applied to the teats.
  - a. Take a walk through the milking area. Are all teats being covered both pre and post? Often times we think it is, but many cows leave the milking area with little or no dip on the teats.
  - b. If using sprayers: Be sure the milk harvester is covering the whole teat, From the base of the teat to the teat end and 360° around each teat. NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. Apply Post dip to the teats as soon as possible after the unit has been removed.
  - A. After milking the teat end is open and at risk of bacteria entering. So it is important to apply post- dip ASAP.
3. Pre and post dip are very effective tools in helping you lower your SCC, bacteria counts, and lowering mastitis incidence..
4. Teat dip is not a “cure-all”, you must keep exit alleys and barn area clean and apply it on all cows correctly.
5. Remember that if the teat is not clean to begin with the dip is not as effective.
  - A. Be sure the teat is free of all organic matter before the dip is applied.

Numerous products containing several different germicides are currently on the market. At this time no U.S. government agency requires efficacy, safety, or residue data on teat disinfectants prior to marketing.

Therefore, there are many products on the market that have not been tested at all.

The National Mastitis Council is a not-for-profit professional organization devoted to reducing mastitis and enhancing milk quality. The NMC promotes research and provides information to the dairy industry on udder health, milking management, milk quality, and milk safety.

NMC has developed protocols for determining effectiveness of mastitis control products.

We recommend that you use only teat dips that follow the NMC guidelines.

Some of the pre-dips that we recommend are: Bovadine and Quartermate.

Some of the Post-dips that we recommend are: Bovadine and Quartermate.

We strongly recommend that you talk to your veterinarian about what teat dip will work best for your operation.

For more information visit <http://www.nmconline.org/info.htm>



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 4-H, FFA AND YOUTH EXHIBITORS AT THE FAIRS! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!