



# **Attica Veterinary**

## **Associates**

### **August 2019**

#### **Welcome to our new newsletter editor — Sam Leadley**

Sam, a presence at Attica Vet since 2000, has accepted the job of assembling the newsletter each month.

He is also the person behind the scenes for the Clinic's website, [www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com).

If you have not already visited the site, today would be a good day to do so. The EVENTS column (right hand side of HOME page) gives useful information about special events [Fair Days, Polar Plunge, Client Appreciation Day].

New postings on the website also appear in the EVENTS column. For example, each month a new issue of the Calf Management Newsletter is available.

Have you used the "On Farm Product Book" to look up an antibiotic's dose, route of administration, and withholding for milk/meat? Remember this book will format to your mobile phone for easy reading.

Ideas for newsletter? Use the clinic number 585-591-2660 or Sam's mobile 585-356-0769.

#### **Does September Equal Higher Somatic Cell Counts ?**

September usually signals cooler weather with our barn fans running fewer hours. Remember that these fans not only cool our cows but also move air to dry stall bedding.

Drier bedding presents a lower risk for bacterial contamination. Once fans begin to cycle off in September our management needs to work to lower risk for our cows as they return from the parlor.

Extra attention to fresh bedding and stall grooming are two ideas to reduce risk of bacterial exposure. Also, having fresh feed for cows as they come back from milking will keep cows from lying down as teat ends close.

Extra care keeping return lanes clean will lower the risk of infection, as well. If you stop using fans in the return lane area the risk of teat contamination can go up due to sloppy conditions.

## **Baby, It's Cold Outside**

That is the title of a song written many years ago by Dean Martin. Why mention it now? As we move into September the nights and mornings begin to drop below 60°. Do you remember that newborn calves have to burn body resources to maintain their body core temperature when outside temperatures fall below 60°?

Plan now for September weather. Any time you need to wear a long-sleeve shirt in the morning it is cold for newborn calves. Cold wet calves burn up a lot of the energy from colostrum getting dry. We can prevent this. Assemble some clean dry bath-size towels to get newborn calves “fluff-dry” before they go into their hutches/pens.

For a resource to help with this, go to [www.calffacts.com](http://www.calffacts.com) and scroll down to “Drying Off a Calf.”

## **FORAGE DRY MATTER IS IMPORTANT**

Did you see this article. “Forage dry matter matters,” in Hoard’s Dairyman (August 10 issue)? The authors, Mary Beth de Ondarza and Ralph Ward, make the point that providing a consistent diet for cows is key to consistent milk production.

She continues, “ Excellent feed managers generally evaluate forage dry matters on a weekly basis and more often if a change is expected. It is important for the farm to have the capability to monitor the dry matter of forages and make changes on an intermediate schedule to those provided by a laboratory. Koster testers are most commonly used to dry down forages on the farm.”

Attica Vet stocks new Koster testers as well as a supply of replacement parts. If you do not already have the capability to do “on-farm” dry matter measurements please talk with your herd veterinarian about how this could improve the consistency of the TMR fed to your cows.

## **FOR SALE**

Standing corn. Call Lyman Rudgers at 585-409-3353.

Sawdust! Sawdust! Sawdust! Dry sawdust for sale for cows, calves, & heifers. Call anytime (716) 430-3747 or (716) 457-3811. Ask for Dean.