Attica Veterinary Associates, PC

December 2018 Newsletter

"Who let Bessie substitute for Rudolf? I wasted half the night jumping over the moon!"

Holiday Hours:

Please note – emergency services available 24/7/365

- Christmas Eve 12/24 – office closes at noon
- Christmas Day 12/25 – office closed
- New Years Eve 12/31 – office closes at noon
- New Years Day 1/1 – office closed
- BioPRYN: For two holiday weeks – will be plated only Thursdays (12/27 & 1/3) those weeks – with results on Friday. Please submit samples by noon on Thursday.

Upcoming Events

- Ag Workforce Development Council's "Labor Road Show II", Jan. 28-31 – different locations each day contact Cornell Cooperative Extension 315-433-0100 ext. 5595

For Sale

- New Idea 325 Corn picker 2 row 12 husking rollers. Asking $2000. Call Robert Koithan at 716-807-1965.

Is Your Wash Water Hot Enough?

The on-farm problem looks like this: Too many calves seem to be requiring treatment for scours. Equipment used for colostrum collection, storage, and feeding is not getting clean enough. The Milk or milk replacer equipment isn't getting clean enough either – it seems to have scum on it and it feels slimy.

Who is the culprit? It could be the wash water temperature. On a number of farm visits since the last couple of months we have seen many folks washing equipment in water that was too cool to do a good job. If you do not already have an equipment washing protocol download it from our website. Go to www.Atticacows.com, → Resources → Calf Facts Resource Library → "Washing Milk Containers: Protocol".

Remember, for manual washing of equipment that is used with colostrum, milk, and/or milk replacer, the wash water temperature needs to be above 120°F. This means that when finished washing up, the water you drain from the sink should be above 120°F.

While it seems obvious, if the water that you drain is above 120F, it has to start out considerably higher than that. It is very easy for us on a farm call to spot the wash water temperature problem – if the worker has their bare hands in the water, it is too cool. Wash water should always be hot enough to require rubber gloves (not nitrile milking gloves).

If using a stainless steel sink on very cold days, it may be difficult to have your wash water hot enough. It takes so much heat to warm the sink that you end up with 110F or 120F at the beginning of washing up equipment. Try filling the sink one-quarter to one-third full with straight hot water, let it warm the sink, let it drain out (maybe to feed calves?), and then refill the sink with hot water a second time.

If you have been out-of-doors in cold weather, remember that your hands were conditioned by the cold. Your hands will not be an accurate way to test for actual water temperature – using a rapid-read thermometer is much more reliable. A local dairyman suggested pushing a thermometer through a small square of Styrofoam will allow it to float in your wash water while you work. The thermometer should be more accurate and should help improve cleanliness on your farm.