AVA Newsletter

July 2015

Did you know...

July 14th was Cow Appreciation Day!

Rainy weather getting you down?

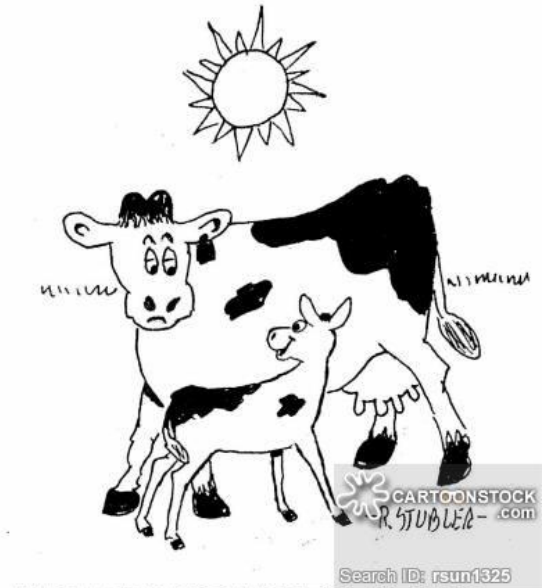
The recent heavy rains haven't just made crop work difficult – the rain affects moisture content in feed, too. Rain will decrease the dry matter in feed, varying the nutrient content that finally reaches your cows' mouths. Rations with an increased moisture concentration will result in less dry matter being fed to cows and may affect the ratio of forage to grain. Fortunately, cows are resilient and will often adapt to short term increases in moisture changes. Please consult with your nutritionist for more information.

Put The Brakes on Bacterial Growth in Colostrum

Bacterial populations double every 20 minutes in body-temperature colostrum. Take advantage of an inexpensive procedure to arrest the rapid growth of bacteria in colostrum – lower the temperature. The ideal temperature for colostrum is 60°F reached 30 min after collection, chilled from its original body temperature of 102°F. This rate of cooling helps inhibit the beginning of bacterial growth. The following two methods can help achieve a good rate of cooling:

1. Ice Bath Method
    a. Place ice water in a large container and submerge colostrum containers. Ice alone will not surround the colostrum containers well enough to achieve good cooling.
    b. Keep an eye on the ice – if it melts, add more to maintain ice in water at all times.
    c. Smaller containers of colostrum will chill faster.
    d. Metal containers transmit and therefore lose heat more rapidly than plastic ones.

2. Ice Bottle Method
    a. Using a 1 part ice : 4 parts colostrum ratio…
    b. Use clean plastic bottles (e.g. empty pop bottles with wrappers removed for best cleanliness), fill them ¾ full of water and freeze. Immediately after collecting colostrum, estimate volume and add the appropriate volume of ice bottles.
    c. If you have a large bucket available, use larger ice bottles for better cooling.



"MOM, IT'S TOO HOT TODAY. CAN I HAVE COLD MILK?"