

Attica Veterinary Associates, PC

March 2019 Newsletter

Quartermaster Special

For a short time only, buy one pail of Quartermaster and get two boxes free!

Charles' Corner

It may seem early when you look out the window and think “maybe I should be planning my fly control program for this season.” Let me tell you - it's not. An early start can be the key to a successful program! Controlling the first larvae hatches is essential! This will make your fly control more effective all season long! Tackling fly control is just as important as any other program on your farm. Putting in place a cost-effective and sustainable plan can be as simple as: predator wasps, baiting, sprays when needed, and most importantly, cleanliness (grass clipping, weed whacking, and just plain tidying up) around the farmstead. If you would like some help on deciding what to do let us know and we would be glad to discuss a program tailored to your farm with the entomologist who works with us.

“I just bought a thesaurus and when I got it home, all of the pages were blank...
I have no words to describe how angry I am.”

For Sale

- 36 Deluxe EXL Calf hutches/ Agri-Plastics, \$310 each includes fence and outside pail holders. Call Ted West at 585-739-2783
- 325 New Idea Corn Picker. 2 row, 12 husking rollers, \$2000. Call Robert Koithan at 716-807-1965

Now Is The Time To Defrost

Farm refrigerators have to work hard in the summertime conditions to keep our vaccine supplies at recommended storage temperatures – 36-39°F (2-4°C). In a recent survey of dairy farm refrigerators, only 27% maintained a temperature between 35° and 45° during more than 95% of the 48-hour test period. One out of four units maintained that temperature for less than 5% of the test period. Do you keep a thermometer in your unit to check on this?

Now is the time to get ready for summer. Here are a few tips to keep refrigerators both efficient and cold enough to keep vaccines and colostrum at ideal storage temperatures:

- Manual defrost units need to be defrosted regularly. Guideline on frost buildup? You start using extra electricity as soon as frost buildup exceeds ¼ inch on coils. In addition, iced-up coils often cannot maintain below 40°F temperatures when challenged by hot external conditions even if the unit runs continuously.
- Auto-defrost models need to have drains that work. Many units have an evaporator pan you can check. If the drain is working properly, the pan should be wet when the unit shuts off. Because auto-defrost models vary widely in design, you should check the manual that accompanied the unit (if you can find it) for proper maintenance practices.
- All refrigerators have refrigerant-cooling coils usually located either on the back or underneath the unit. Dirty coils may prevent the unit from reaching the thermostat setting even if the refrigerator condenser operates continuously. Moreover, dirty coils usually mean higher electricity use. If you have a portable compressed air unit for inflating flat tires it is ideal for blowing out refrigerator cooling coils.
- For long term efficiency, consider relocating the refrigerator where the environment does not get excessively hot, especially in summer months.