
AVA NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 7

July 2006

Cash & Carry

5% on all cash & carry items. Credit card purchases included.

Teat Dip:

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>

Heat Stress In Confined Areas

As we have all witnessed, these last few weeks have been HOT!! It really takes a toll on the cows when it is this hot. Your cows will experience heat stress when the temperature humidity index (THI) exceeds 72. Without cooling, a cow’s body temperature can increase at least 3 degrees F within 20 mins of entering a holding pen. Research shows that when overhead sprayer systems and fans were installed, the cows’ body temperature was lowered by 3.5 degrees F during the time they were in the holding pen. It has been observed that cooled cows can produce at least 1.8 lbs of milk per day more than those that were not cooled. Another research trial showed that if cooled five times per day for 30 mins while in the holding pen, and increases of 5lbs/day were seen. *We must remember though, during heat stress not only is production affected, but reproduction as well!* Here are some ways to reduce heat stress in holding areas/pens:

- ♦ *Alter group sizes* - limit the time cows are away from feed

and water to no more than 2-3 hours per day. Split Use gates, electric fences or panels to subdivide into multiple groups economically during the summer. Cows should be in a holding pen/milking area no longer than 1 hour per milking for 2x milking. For 3x milking they should be in there no longer than 45 mins per milking.

- ◆ *Provide fresh water leaving parlor/milking area* – Double 20's or smaller parlors need at least one 8ft. trough. Larger than double 20's need at least two 8' troughs. Troughs need to be kept fresh and clean. If sitting in sun all day, they need to be emptied and refilled with cool water for afternoon or construct shade over them.
- ◆ *Fan Sizing and Placement* – 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute per cow(cfm/cow) is needed. Most 30-36 in fans can move 10,000-12,000 cfm per cow. One fan per 10 cows or 150sq. ft. in holding areas. A 48in. fan can move 20,000cfm of air per fan. One 48" fan is required per 20 cows or 300 sq.ft. Holding areas less than 24 ft. should have fans installed 6-8 ft on center along sidewalls.
- ◆ *Fans should be installed near the eave of the sidewalls and tilted downward at 15-30 degrees.* Fan should be felt the width of the holding pen and at the height of the cows' back.
- ◆ *Sprayers in holding areas* - .025 gallons of water per square foot of area is recommended. Approximately 1 nozzle per 3 cows is required. For more information on this please ask your veterinarian.
- ◆ A high humidity and

temperatures above 80F can cause severe stress on cows, possibly resulting in death.

Fewer Scouring Calves:

Part 2

(Part 1 was in May 2006's newsletter)

All of us would like to have fewer scouring calves to treat. And, let's remember that sixty percent of all the calves that die before weaning are victims of scours.

Two month's ago we reviewed how blood testing could measure the effectiveness of our colostrum management efforts. Let's go on to the laboratory.

Laboratory procedures

Diane Deleo uses a centrifuge to separate each blood samples into two parts. They are serum and red blood cells.

She transfers a few drops of the serum to a hand-held optical instrument called a refractometer.

It measures blood serum total protein levels.

This test can be done on-farm if you purchase a refractometer (about \$200-250). If interested in this option, call and talk with Diane.

Numbers

These total protein values are measured on a scale from 0 and 10. Most calves fall between 3.5 and 7.5.

What is a "Good" number?

In general, the higher the number, the greater the immunity that has been transferred from the dam to the daughter.

Values between 5.5 and 6.5 mean that your colostrum feeding is working well.

Values between 5.5 and 5.0 mean that your colostrum feeding could be better but is still working.

Values less than 5.0 mean that your colostrum feeding is not working very well.

Goals for a commercial dairy

If you have 12 samples, effective colostrum feeding should give these results:

- 7 will be 5.5 or above
- 4 will be between 5.0 and 5.4
- 1 will be below 5.0

Where does the greatest danger lie?

High-risk calves are those that have very low total protein values. Values of 4.5 and below predict high rates of diarrhea and possible respiratory illness.

However, given high enough pathogen exposure, no amount of immunity will keep a calf healthy or alive. If a calf has "average" exposure, values of 5.5 and higher predict better health than lower ones.

If you want to know more about this colostrum feeding evaluation process, call the clinic and ask to have Dr. Sam Leadley's, Ph.D., P.A.S article, "Testing of Passive Transfer of Immunity" sent to you. This is also available at www.atticacows.com.

How can colostrum feeding be improved?

Several resources are available from the Attica Veterinary clinic. If you have an Internet connection, go to www.atticacows.com and click on Calf Facts. Scroll down to "Colostrum Management Checklist." A short checklist, "Preguntas para el manejo del colostro", is in the Spanish section. More than a dozen other articles on colostrum collection, storage, and feeding are at this same location. If you do not have Internet access, call the clinic and ask to have the checklist mailed or faxed to you.