

# AVA NEWSLETTER

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## Cash & Carry

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

## Attention All:

You will notice that with this billing that we have included an Income Category Sales Report. It will also display any discounts you have received over the last year and break up your expenditures. We have done this as many of our clients requested it for the year of 2005. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

## New Product:

Land O Lakes has recently released Bovine IgG – Colostrum Replacement. “This is a natural colostrums with high fat levels providing immediate energy for newborns and containing all growth factors and anti-microbials.” It has been licensed by the USDA regulatory agency as a single does maternal colostrum replacement. This powdered product prevents disease transmission and also helps to prevent failure of passive transfer when given in the first 5 hours after birth. To feed you mix one packet with 1-2 quarts of 110 degree water. To find out more about this product or to purchase some, please stop in to the clinic or call. Discuss with your veterinarian how this may be of value to your dairy.

## Cold Weather & Teat Dipping

In this area of the country, this is a big issue on many farms – to dip or not to dip in cold weather. Unfortunately, there is no straight forward answer. Some variables that influence the decision are:

- Housing design
- Weather conditions
- Degree of teat exposure
- Teat dip type

## Here are a few points to consider:

~ Use the same good germicidal, skin conditioning dip you’ve been using. Most days are not cold enough to freeze the drop on the teat end.

~ Never add extra conditioners to dip, this will change the formulation.

~ Barrier dips are usually not recommended as they take around 20 mins to dry.

~ Try using the “Thrifty Dipper” – it eliminates excess dip on the teat, yet gets great teat coverage.

~ Talk to your veterinarian about using a winter formulated dip – they are generally more expensive, but you need to evaluate potential returns, not just initial investment.

~ DO NOT quit dipping and doing nothing else!!! After milking teats are still wet and this will cause increased dehydration and cracking risks. This allows contagious mastitis to become a huge risk!!

~ High emollient dips (usually >50% skin conditioners) minimize initial freezing. **We highly recommend Bovadine.**

~ Salves can be risky, unless germicide and skin conditioning are proven. These can coat and trap bacteria/dirt and cause mastitis and infection. If you decide to use in injured/chapped teats – use sparingly!!

The best way to deal is to good management. Discuss with your veterinarian and ask for recommendations. Be sure to minimize direct wind exposure, and allow teat dip to dry (if possible) before sending out into the cold. Keep stalls and areas clean and DRY. Always follow proper and clean milking practices.

Attica Veterinary and Cattle Tek carry a wide range of dips that could help meet your needs.

### Pneumonia in Calves

A sudden 25 or 35 degree drop in temperature. Several calves are coughing and have runny noses.

Pneumonia is here again. It is not our imagination that abrupt swings in temperature in the winter are connected with increased treatment rates for pneumonia among preweaned and transition calves.

Part of the problem is winter temperatures. First, calves slow their respiration rate in the cold. That cuts their heat losses. However, at the same time, the lower respiration rate decreases the volume of air exchange that helps carry pathogens out of the lungs.

Second, some of the natural defenses in the respiratory system against bacteria are compromised in cold weather. Remember that there are cells lining the windpipe (trachea) that have little fingers that sweep "junk" up and out? Well, below freezing conditions make them less effective. On top of that, the cells that make mucous to trap pathogens (sort of like flypaper) are less productive when exposed to cold air. Even the special white blood cells that kill and absorb bacteria (alveolar macrophages) slow down in the cold.

So, pathogen exposure in winter is up due to slower respiration rates and weakened natural defenses.

What can we do to cut these treatment rates?

**First**, be sure to feed plenty of good quality, clean colostrum as soon as possible after birth. That practice strengthens immune defenses.

**Second**, feed enough to not only meet maintenance needs but also provide for immune system growth. Talk with your veterinarian about appropriate feeding rates for your calf nutrition program.

**Third**, reduce stress as much as practical. Keep dry bedding in hutches or pens. Make changes in feed gradually.

**Finally**, when we experience sudden temperature shifts, be extra alert for potential pneumonia cases. Early diagnosis makes treatment much more successful. Use the appropriate antibiotic at the dose and duration recommended by your veterinarian.

### Important Vaccine Tidbit:

In this wonderful time of year, we have run across some vaccine getting frozen. People leave it on the dash of the pick-up, in the barn where it can freeze, or refrigerators malfunction. In general, if a vaccine freezes, do not use it. The one exception is a modified live vaccine that does not contain a leptospira component. If a modified live vaccine without a leptospira component is not reconstituted, freezing will not harm it. But, a modified live with a leptospira component that is frozen and reconstituted will cause serious harm to your animals. It can cause adverse reactions, such as anaphylactic shock, and could result in death. All others should be discarded if frozen. Vaccine is an important aspect of animal health, and let's face it, none of us like to waste money. So do yourself a favor and keep all your vaccine from freezing. **DISCARD ALL FROZEN VACCINE!!!**

### Reminder to all sending in fecal samples

Please DO NOT fill the fecal cups full. The lab charges us a surcharge for samples that are overflowing, break in transport due to overflowing, or excessively dirty. We understand that it is hard to keep things clean on a dairy, but don't want to have to trickle the cost down to you. Please remember to write your farm name and animal # on all samples. Sending in half full fecal samples with the cup clean on the outside will make everyone happy!

Wanted: 10 round bales of hay – please contact (585) 535-7541 (North Java area)