

# AVA NEWSLETTER

116 Prospect St., Attica, NY  
(585) 591-2660

[www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com)

Issue No. 4

April 2006

## Cash & Carry

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

## 2006 FAIR SEASON

We will be offering fair vaccinations and health papers for 4-H members at discounted rates only on special **fair days**. On these days the charge will be **\$25 per health paper per fair participant and/or per species thereafter** (includes stop charge, hourly rate, and vaccine).

Appointments scheduled on days other than stated are subject to regular fees.

You **must** call in ahead of these days to schedule an appointment. Please remember to be flexible as we are doing this to help the 4-H members.

**Papers will not be issued unless payment is received at the time of service.**

**Animals need to be caught up, identified and all paperwork in order and legible.**

**Dates are as follows by county**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Genesee & Erie  
(preview show only)

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Genesee & Erie

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Erie & Wyoming

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Wyoming

**The certificate is valid for all additional fairs during 2006 in NYS.**

## Calf Care Meeting

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Dr. Franklyn Garry, from Colorado State University, will be visiting to discuss calving management and calf care. 10:15 am to 2:30pm @ Bohn's Restaurant – Rte. 33, Batavia. Lunch will be included. RSVP is a must by May 1<sup>st</sup> to Kendra Inman (585) 409-1543 or [Kendra.inman@pfizer.com](mailto:Kendra.inman@pfizer.com).

## Get the Jump on Pink Eye this Spring

The bacteria behind pink eye is *Moraxella Bovis*. It is carried from animal to animal by face flies or direct contact. The flies feed around the eyes creating wounds which allows the bacteria to enter.

Eye irritation from dust, pollen, UV light and feed compromise the corneal surface increasing the risk of infection. A few carrier heifers can serve as a reservoir for infection for an entire pen or barn.

A vaccination program may be the best alternative for Western New York dairies. It's essential to vaccinate heifers about 28 to 45 days before pink eye season. That's roughly now through mid-May.

We stock four vaccines. Two are strictly for pink eye. For strictly pink eye we carry

*Piliguard*, \$.93/dose (\$.83/dose for 50d bottle) or *Pinkeye Shield XT4*, \$.95/dose (\$.85/dose for 50d bottle). The other two are combined with clostridial protection. They are *Vision 7 20/20* - \$1.40/dose (\$1.33/dose for 50d bottle) or *Alpha 7 MBI* \$1.41/dose. Check with your veterinarian for the one that best meets your farm's needs.

## Deworm Before Spring Turnout

Economic losses from worms are most common in young stock.

Most of these cattle do not show obvious signs of infection. By the time that we can visibly see worms in the manure, the animal is extremely infected and has an enormous amount of worms in their body.

Worms burrow into the lining of the stomach and intestinal tract damaging the intestinal lining. This lowers the efficiency of feed conversion and rate of growth. This causes cattle that are not as profitable as ones not affected by worms. Worms can suck the profit out of your dairy before you even realize it.

How do heifers get infected? They eat or drink contaminated feed, bedding or water in the winter. In summer, pasture plants are a major source of

## Calving Management &

HAPPY SPRING!

worm larvae. One of the best ways to break the infection cycle is to deworm heifers before they go out to pasture. Their manure will contain very few eggs.

We recommend that heifers be dewormed prior to spring turnout or as soon as possible this spring. All pasture animals should be dewormed before turning out on to the pasture. Please call for current pricing.

### **One-Half Hour Limit for Colostrum**

Once colostrum is harvested, either feed it or chill it within one-half hour.

#### ***What's the Rush?***

Coliform contamination of colostrum is the reason for the "rush."

All of us who have milked fresh cows know about the "on-farm" conditions when we harvest colostrum. Rough skin. Cow's udder is messy from calving fluids. She will not stand still while we clean off her teats. On and on.

The chances of collecting "sterile" colostrum are slim. However, low levels of coliform bacteria in colostrum are not a problem for calf health. These are levels in the range of 1-2,000 cfu/ml.

Higher levels are a threat to newborn calves. "Higher" means at least 5,000 cfu/ml and often over 50,000cfu/ml.

With careful cow preparation and clean equipment, many farms can harvest colostrum with coliform counts under 5,000 cfu/ml. We want to get it into the calf before the coliform bacteria get a chance to multiply. Alternatively, we want to chill it right away.

***The first half-hour is free!***

After being added to a growth medium, bacteria take a while before they start multiplying. While milking a fresh cow, we sweep up coliforms from the sides and ends of the teats. We may have some bacterial regrowth on our collection equipment. These bacteria will take about one-half hour at cow body temperature before they start growing in the colostrum.

That one-half hour is free! Contamination is not going to go up in that time slot. Take advantage of this free time. Feed right away!

Or, chill to at least 60° within one-half hour. That will slow the growth rate enough for most refrigerators to take it rest of the way down to 40°.

#### **Warm Weather Chilling**

Do not depend on your refrigerator to chill more than two bottles of warm colostrum. Adding more than one-gallon at a time will "shock-load" a household refrigerator.

Chill. Then refrigerate. For several gallons, try setting two nursing bottles of colostrum in a five-gallon pail with two-quarts of ice; add water to necks of bottles. I use discarded plastic bottles to make ice for this. Just remember to fill the bottles only 3/4 fill of water before freezing.

Alternatively, you can try adding ice directly to the colostrum. Sixteen ounce plastic bottles work great. They have to be clean - plan to use them just once. Use two of them for each gallon of colostrum. The ice-filled bottles can be dropped directly into the milker can either before or after harvesting the colostrum.

***Bottomline***

Take advantage of your free half-hour. Feed or chill colostrum ASAP.

### **Save \$\$\$ on Clean Colostrum**

During the month of May receive a discount on having your colostrum checked for coliform bacteria. In their first sampling period, over half of the samples from farms in the AVA colostrum quality control program contain over 10,000cfu/ml coliform bacteria and one out of five are over 100,000cfu/ml. Our farms currently participating have achieved 51% of their samples below 10,000 cfu/ml after sampling and working with us to help lower their counts. Contamination is much more common than most of us want to admit. During May we will culture 4 colostrum samples for \$48, which is a huge savings. Call Diane Deleo, LVT, at (585) 591-2660 to ask how you can take advantage of these savings and, possibly, save even one calf from severe scours or worse, death.

### **J5 Vaccinations**

Remember that summer is coming soon – now is a great time to start the J5 shots to prevent mastitis this summer. Please talk to your veterinarian for more information or any questions.

#### **For Sale:**

**Registered 2 yr. old Holstein Bull. Breeding cows & heifers. For more information on Dam's records call Alan West (585) 535-7712.**

HAPPY SPRING!