

# Attica Veterinary Associates

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



Newsletter – May 2023

## **You're invited to our Client Appreciation Day!!**

Wednesday, July 5, 2023 - 11am – 3pm

Brick Oven Pizza Truck, pasta, salads, cannoli's & more! Don't miss out on –

Door Prizes and Vendor Tables



## **Utilizing Bacteria to Improve Dairy Cow Health**

**Craig J. Louder, DVM**

Bacteria are generally considered the bad guys when discussing cattle health. Great lengths are taken to make sure that bacteria counts are kept in check to prevent disease. The rumen within the cow, however, requires billions of bacteria for it to function and keep it healthy. These bacteria populations are what allow us to feed cattle the way we do, utilizing forages, grains, and byproducts in rations which bacteria then break down to provide nutrients for the cows, generally in the form of volatile fatty acids such as acetate, propionate, and butyrate.

In addition to providing nutrients to the cow, some of these bacteria produce byproducts which if not kept in check, can cause issues in the rumen. Diets that are high in starch favor bacteria that produce larger quantities of propionate, which helps increase milk production, but also increases the amount of lactic acid produced in the rumen. While lactic acid can be useful in some instances, large quantities being produced rapidly can cause the pH of the rumen to drop quickly leading to acidosis. Incredibly, one of the mechanisms that has evolved to keep the pH of the rumen in check, is bacteria that consume lactic acid, decreasing the amount in the rumen and stabilizing rumen pH and health.

The primary bacteria in the rumen that is classified as a lactic acid utilizer, is *Megasphaera elsdenii*, or Mega e. Mega e increases over time to minimize the negative effects of lactic acid which increases as the animal is fed diets rich in starch. Feeding transition diets allow the rumen populations of Mega e to increase and consequently decreasing the risk of acidosis. Lactipro FLX, is a commercially available product containing Mega e which allows producers to give a one-time dose to cows, inoculating the rumen with large quantities of the bacteria. This allows producers the ability to increase the starch concentrations in diets quickly while still maintaining rumen health.



While bacteria can and often are the cause of illness in dairy cows, utilizing the correct bacteria can help keep the rumen healthy. When the rumen is healthy, cows usually are too.

**For sale**

- 2013 Swivel Hitch Disc bine – 540 New Holland, rubber rollers, excellent condition. For more details and price call 585-880-1424.
- 2019 Urban Calf Shuttle with pasteurizer. Has new motor on it and replaced the agitator. Spare tire. Paid new \$16,000. Give an offer - call 585-734-2056.  
Pasteurizer part never used. We used to mix and heat to desired temp. Sold calves no longer needed.

**2023 4-H Fair Days**

Before calling to schedule – please read through this carefully to be sure you can adhere to our guidelines.

<u>Fair Days</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Pricing</u>
Thursday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> (This date is full )	Genesee (& preview shows)	4-H Member Health Certificate \$60 - (per species / per certificate) Non-4-H Member Health Certificate \$75 <b><u>Plus \$5 per Rabies vaccine</u></b>
Wednesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Genesee, Wyoming, Erie	<b><u>\$3 per Shipping Fever vaccine</u></b>
Wednesday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wyoming & Erie	Each BVD Test \$12 BVD Lab Accession Fee \$6 (per group of samples) Each Additional Location \$15

**THIS IS ONLY FOR 4-H KIDS!!!**

***You must reside or show in the counties listed above – if you are out of this area additional charges apply, call our office for more information.***

- Prices valid ONLY on Fair Day, other days are subject to regular fees
- Check out our website for complete information and rules.  
<http://www.atticacows.com/news/details.php?EntryID=181>