



From the desk of Dr. Michelle Borek-Stine

June 1, 2018

**Happy Dairy Month!** Spring is definitely past us and summer is here! As we move into the summer months, let us discuss some of the obstacles and how to overcome or at least have the best chance of success during challenges.

First let us review a few things that heat causes.

**Bacteria, lots and lots of bacteria.** Over 70°Fahrenheit bacteria double every 20 minutes. Those bacteria live on teat ends, bottle nipples, automatic feeders, milk lines, milk, colostrum, manure puddles, manure in sand free stalls, calving pens, calving equipment, waterers, etc.

**Increase work load on cattle to keep cool.** Cattle are heat stressed over 70°F. It requires more energy, more water and more effort to cool. Thus their water and feed consumption will increase just to maintain normal body conditions, not including growth or production.

**Increased work load on equipment.** Fans, motors, pumps, cooling systems, skid steers, refrigerators, freezers...yes, your utility bill.

### Summertime Tune Ups: Preventing Problems During the Heat

#### Bacteria Control:

Get the colostrum in the refrigerator or freezer within 20 minutes of harvesting it. Do NOT let it sit. Sick scouring calves from spoiled colostrum will not help your workload.

A herd booster of your current mastitis prevention vaccine may be warranted. Toxic mastitis cases such as *E. coli* or *Klebsiella* tend to increase as conditions are wet and hot. **Endovac, J-5, J-vac** are the vaccines we use to boost the cow's immunity to these pathogens. In some cases, a booster may even lower your overall somatic cell count.

**Note: Vaccines need to be given when temperature is less than 85°F and the temperature cools below 75°F at night. Vaccinate prior to moves, not after.**

#### Cattle work load:

Fresh water is absolutely key. Water is the basis of life, let alone growth and production. Keep the waterers clean. Scum grows fast. Water calves after giving milk.

Push feed frequently to keep it from heating and spoiling.

Try every 1-2 hours especially in the heat of the day.

**Fans - TURN THEM ON, LEAVE THEM ON EVEN AT NIGHT.** You may turn them off in October.—per Doc Collings.

**Sprinklers** - remember evaporative cooling is the key. Wet cows are just that, hot wet cows. Air needs to be blown over them to move the heat off their bodies.

**Down Cows/sick cows** - Shade, comfort, feed and water. Yes bring them feed and water they can reach and get to. If they are hot, cool water on the under belly or legs may help cool them. Cows pant to release heat. Only cool with water on their backs if you have a fan to blow off the heat.

Sick down calves require oral electrolytes as soon as possible. Staying ahead of dehydration is key to success.

#### Equipment Checks:

Check your refrigerator temperature. Ice is bad, soggy boxes are bad. Do not put the vaccines in the door, put them in the middle with space between the boxes for air to cool. Leave your daily drink in the fridge, is it cold?

During vaccinating and injections, keep your medications in a cooler and out of the sunlight.

I am not a mechanical person but my dad always tells me to check the coolant levels and oil. Instruct your employees to do the same.

Take care of yourselves, stay hydrated and enjoy your favorite ice cream!

#### Drop Ship Improvements

As always we at Thumb Veterinary Services are trying to continue to improve your dropship experience. For ease of ordering, Pattie can send you a form of the products you have purchased which you can fill out then text, email or call in. No time for a phone call, send a picture or text to our clinic phone 810-404-9320 or email Pattie at [PattieS@thumbvets.com](mailto:PattieS@thumbvets.com)

#### Calving Class

Wednesday June 20, 2018 at 5pm here at the clinic

\$45 per attendee. RSVP to (810)376-2425 or [katied@thumbvets.com](mailto:katied@thumbvets.com)



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