

## January 2006!

We hope you found the Christmas Season to be a source of renewal and hope in your families and lives, and wish you all the best in 2006! As a business we are very thankful to have you all not only as clients, but also as friends. We appreciate the confidence you have in our veterinary service, and the relationships that we have formed over the years.

**MEDICATION RECOMMENDATIONS:** It's winter! It's cold outside, in barns, and in medicine cabinets. Imagine being a patient in your barn requiring an injection of medication. Your owner grabs a bottle from the medicine cabinet, its temperature is near freezing. That injection can be quite inflammatory, painful, and damaging; particularly if the volume of injection is much larger than the small doses used for vaccines. Some medications, such as LA200® or other thicker medications, have carriers in them that may cause a 'cold burn' if injected in large volume and were near the freezing point. We strongly recommend warming medications to a temperature nearer 70 degrees (or normal warm season room temperature) prior to injection. Placing the capped syringe full of product in a pail of clean warm water for a brief time can take off the 'chill' of the injection. Of course an alternative would be to have the medications stored in a heated 'vet room' with a refrigerator for vaccines, but not all dairies have that option. Remember that propylene glycol (a drench for ketosis) can have the same impact on the esophagus after swallowing. Do you recall the cold chill in your chest from eating ice cream too quickly? Remember the 'chill' of medicines as you care for your animals.

**SPECTRAMAST DC®:** Many of you have seen this product advertised in print or on the radio. This product is a new dry cow therapy available from Pfizer Animal Health. The most current research on udder infections in cows going dry shows them to be predominately environmental streps and coliforms. The old issue of cows commonly going dry with Staph aureus is much less common. The best therapy for the Staph cows still remains to be Quartermaster®. However if your herd is more commonly plagued with streps and coliform mastitis, Spectramast DC® might be a better option. This truly is the only dry tube formulated to combat those types of bacteria. Other advantages to this medication include no milk withhold if the cow has had a 30 day dry period, but particularly-**NO slaughter hold**. There is only one major disadvantage to this product. The cost of Spectramast® is double that of ordinary dry tubes. Currently we do not carry any of this product, particularly due to cost. If you feel that a different dry treatment would do a better job with subclinical or clinical mastitis at dry off, this might be the product. Let us know and we can order some for you to try. We will carry the product if we find that there is client interest.

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