

SUMMER 2023

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY
SERVICES

Valleywide Welcomes New Vet, Dr. Emma Cijka



Dr. Emma Cijka grew up on a small goat dairy in Hubbardton, where she first became interested in veterinary medicine and met the vets of Valleywide. Emma has ridden with Valleywide on and off since high school, and is excited to be back working in the area!

Emma studied Animal Science at Cornell where she gained experience with sheep prior to starting vet school. She focused on dairy production medicine throughout vet school, completing Summer Dairy Institute in 2022, and graduated from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2023. Emma is looking forward to all aspects of the profession, but is especially interested in milk

quality and small ruminant medicine. In her free time, Emma enjoys baking, kayaking, swimming, cross-country skiing, and spending time with family.



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Calcium: Two much of a good thing!

When treating a cow for milk fever, giving two bottles of calcium in the vein can actually cause more harm than good. If your current protocol

is to give TWO bottles of calcium in the vein, talk to your veterinarian about your milk fever protocol. Also check back

and read our next newsletter article which will cover milk fever and other post-calving nutritional issues!



Get Your Vaccines off the Refrigerator Door

And other advice for keeping vaccines safe and effective

Dr. Elizabeth Martens

Vaccines are an important part of any herd health plan. At their best, they prevent diseases, lower abortion rates and support animal welfare and productivity. When handled or stored inappropriately, their chances of causing bad reactions including anaphylaxis increase. Less exciting but potentially more costly is the possibility that vaccine injected into cattle loses potency due to poor handling.

Most vaccines are supposed to be stored at **36-46°F**. Refrigerator temperatures fluctuate – in fact according to **a 2022 study of refrigerators on dairy farms, the average daily temperature fluctuation was 9.5°F**. They found that on farm refrigerators were outside the safe vaccine storage temperature zone from 0% - 80% of the time. This could be costing producers many thousands of dollars every year in ineffective vaccines, wasted time administering them, and failure to prevent disease in animals. A digital thermometer to monitor refrigerator temperature can be purchased online for \$15 or less and will allow you to know the actual temperature inside.

Sources of Vaccine

Damage:

Warming

Freezing

Past expiration date

Contamination

UV light exposure

Improper Mixing

There are colder and warmer “zones” of the refrigerator that should be avoided for vaccine storage. The door is the warmest part of the refrigerator and experiences the biggest temperature swings. Crisper drawers can also be warmer areas with less air circulation. The coldest area is near the cold air inlet and things can freeze there. **Vaccines should be stored in the center of the refrigerator.** Storing jugs of water in the fridge can help prevent temperature fluctuation, as can minimizing the number of times the door is opened.

Farm refrigerators are often used to keep people’s lunches and drinks cold, store hormones, colostrum, milk samples etc. It may not be practical to dedicate a refrigerator to only vaccine storage but do **be mindful of how often the refrigerator is being opened every day**. Cool colostrum completely before putting it in a refrigerator with vaccines. Consider storing most of your vaccine inventory in a less used refrigerator and only keeping what you need for the week in the more frequently opened one.

Contamination of vaccine happens when used needles are inserted into the vial. Bacterial overgrowth can happen in as little as 30 minutes, making the rest of the vaccine both ineffective and a greater risk of causing an adverse reaction. Only insert clean needles into vaccine bottles that you don’t plan to use up immediately, and **never store vaccine bottles with a needle stuck into the top**.

Always transport vaccines in a cooler with ice packs, with insulating packaging between the ice packs and vaccine. Some vaccines can be damaged by UV light – so keep bottles in their original packaging and in a dark place whenever possible. Make sure employees know how to mix vaccine that needs to be reconstituted or gently agitated before drawing up doses. Never vigorously shake a vial of vaccine.

