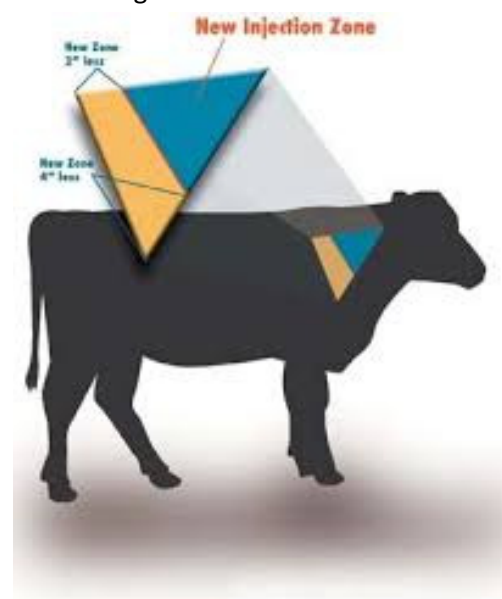


Herd Health Seminar “Take Home Messages”

Fisk Veterinary Services

Vaccination

1. Use reputable dealer – check expiration dates and storage conditions before purchase.
2. Transport vaccines out of sunlight in cooler with ice packs (35-45 F).
3. Protect vaccines from heat and sunlight (until administered) as this inactivates them.
4. Rehydrate when the first animal is in the chute.
5. Use small dose vials if working slow or going to take a break.
6. Once rehydrated, use contents within 1 hour. Killed products should not be kept once the bottle is punctured. Realistically, 1 week is acceptable if refrigerated and punctured only with sterile needles.
7. Use Vaccine gun such as an All-flex or Hauptner, preferably with barrel corresponding to volume of vaccine (it is difficult to feel a 2ml squeeze on a large barrel gun). Single dose disposable syringes are acceptable as well. Do not use guns with long, uninsulated tubing from the bottle.
8. Do not use disinfectants or lubricants on guns or needles as this will inactivate the vaccine. Instead, clean by boiling a pot of water and disassembling the gun into the pot as it cools. Use the first draw of vaccine as the lubricant for the gun.
9. Use only sterile needles to enter a bottle of vaccine.
10. Keep open bottle in cooler with syringe guns out of light and heat. Keep unopened bottles in refrigerator or another cooler until ready to use.
11. Label syringes so to not mix products in different syringes (i.e. one product per syringe).
12. Change needles every time the bottle is entered, when the gun is refilled, or change the needle every 10-15 cows. Don't straighten or clean bent or dirty needles.
13. Make sure to administer via label instructions – dose: 2 vs 5 mL, route: IM vs SQ.
14. Use proper BQA vaccination site – see diagram.
15. Booster per label directions if required and administer prior to disease challenge.



Weaning

1. Fence line for 5-10 days
 - a. Good first step to a 45 day preconditioning program
2. Clean fresh water (trickling over to train calves)
3. Free choice high quality grass hay
4. Give ½-1% body weight high fiber, palatable feed
 - a. Easier if previously creep fed

5. Provide free choice mineral
6. Place nutrition on fence line so calves will find it
7. Quiet wean may be more suitable option

Antibiotic Usage

1. Use antibiotics only when necessary
 - a. Treating viral stages with short term antibiotics is ineffective
 - b. Metaphylaxis only for extremely high risk calves, but probably better off treating calves that become sick to decrease resistance
2. Use proper antibiotic for disease being treated (label)
 - a. Consult with herd health veterinarian to determine if and which antibiotic to use based on area resistance patterns
3. Administer proper dosage based on accurate weight of animal
 - a. Under-dosing creates resistance; use a scale if possible
 - b. Use upper dose range if an antibiotic lists multiple dose options
 - c. Redoes at proper intervals until infection resolved to prevent relapse
4. Always administer via proper route and duration
 - a. IM, SQ, Ear
 - b. $\leq 10\text{ml/site}$
 - c. Use BQA approved locations – neck IM and SQ, behind elbow –SQ only
5. Prevention will always be more effective to minimize antibiotic use
 - a. Consult with your herd health veterinarian to develop an effective vaccination protocol

Deworming

1. Deworm at proper times of year
2. Always dose according to weight
 - a. Err on the heavy side
3. Consider fecal survey to determine efficacy of parasite control
4. Combination deworming most effective
 - a. Combine two classes (i.e. an oral white wormer and an injectable)
5. Resistance is occurring; take steps to minimize resistance without use of dewormers
 - a. Deworm only cows which have parasite loads
 - i. Focus on calves, replacement heifers, and bulls
 - ii. Health, good condition cows may not need deworming
 - b. Proper stocking rate depending on forage availability (usually 1 cow/ 3-6 acres)
 - c. Rotationally graze to maintain proper grass stand
 - d. Minimize heavy congregation areas
 - e. Manure removal/management; dung beetles
 - f. Cull skinny open cows as they likely have high parasite loads
 - g. Deworm during proper time of year (i.e. Apr-May)