

Fundamentals of Herd Health: Cow-Calf Operation

Cows 4-6 weeks Prior to Breeding

1. 5 way viral respiratory vaccine with *Campylobacter fetus* (Vibriosis) and 5-way Leptospirosis-Modified live and Fetal Protection (FP) product preferred. If pregnant-use killed vaccine
2. 7 way Clostridial (Blackleg)-optional if exposure risk is high (or under 2 years of age)
3. Deworm

Heifers 6 weeks Prior to Breeding

1. 5 way viral respiratory vaccine with *Campylobacter fetus* (Vibriosis) and 5-way Leptospirosis-Modified live and Fetal Protection (FP) product
2. 7 way Clostridial (Blackleg)
3. Deworm

Calves 1-3 months of age:

1. Identify with tag
2. Vaccinate with 7 way Clostridial (Blackleg)
3. Dehorn, Castrate
4. Optional Practices:
 - a. Implant (if castrate)
 - b. 5 way Viral Respiratory Vaccine-MLV Preferred* or intranasal
 - c. Test for BVD-PI (ear notch)-Consult your veterinarian

Calves 2-3 weeks pre-weaning:

1. 5 way viral respiratory vaccine-MLV Preferred*
2. Vaccinate with *Mannheimia haemolytica* toxoid-may be delayed in low risk calves
3. Deworm with an endectocide (examples: Ivomec, Dectomax, Eprinex, Cydectin) for internal and external parasites
4. 7 way Clostridial vaccine (Blackleg)

Calves at Weaning:

→Delay processing 24-36 hours for stress of weaning to decrease. Best to wait until the calves are eating ,drinking, and the majority have stopped walking and bawling←

1. Booster 5 way viral respiratory vaccine-MLV recommended /often required by sale
2. Booster 7 way Clostridial *if required* by label direction

3. Optional Practices:
 - a. Implant
 - b. *Pasteurella multocida* and/or *Histophilus somnus* vaccine

Heifers (keeping for replacements) at Weaning:

1. 5 way viral respiratory with *Campylobacter fetus* (Vibriosis) and 5-way Leptospirosis vaccine and booster-***MLV strongly recommended***
2. 7 way Clostridial and *booster if required* by label direction

Additional Considerations:

1. If calves cannot be processed pre-weaning, then do the steps for “Calves at Weaning” then, in 2-3 weeks, booster the 5 way viral respiratory vaccine (and the 7 way Clostridial if required on label). For high risk (auction) calves, boosters should be given 14-21 days after the first vaccination in order take advantage of the vaccine protection needed early after arrival. Castrations and dehorning need to be completed as soon as possible.
2. *Modified Live Vaccines (MLV) provide faster, broader immunity and are better stimulators of cell-mediated immunity. They are generally preferred and usually required by most preconditioned sales. However, only use modified live vaccines ***in pregnant cows and in nursing calves*** if the cows were vaccinated with MLV in the last 12 months (check label for specific requirements). If this requirement is not met, a killed vaccine must be used until the cow is open and the calf is weaned.
3. If heifers have been allowed to stay with the herd bull until weaning, most likely some are pregnant. A prostaglandin injection (Lutalyse®) can be given to the heifers once they have been away from the bull a minimum of 10 days. These injections work best in early pregnancy so do not delay administration if needed.
4. Try to minimize the number of vaccines given at one time as much as possible.
5. Keep good vaccination records. Record date, vaccine name, serial numbers and expiration dates at minimum.
6. Utilize fly control beginning in late spring. Pinkeye vaccine should also be considered.
7. A 5 way viral respiratory vaccine includes these disease antigens:
 - a. IBR
 - b. BVD Types 1 and 2
 - c. PI₃
 - d. BRSV