

## Fundamentals of Herd Health: Pre and Post Weaning

### 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. Pinkeye Vaccine (late spring/summer)
  - d. Deworm
  - e. Test for BVD-PI (ear notch)-Consult your veterinarian

### Calves 3-4 weeks pre-weaning:

1. 5 way viral respiratory vaccine-MLV Preferred\*
2. 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 (rumen fill), drinking, and the majority have stopped walking and bawling←

1. Booster 5 way viral respiratory vaccine-MLV recommended /often required
2. Booster 7 way Clostridial *if required* by label direction
3. Vaccinate with *Mannheimia haemolytica* toxoid-may be delayed in low risk calves
4. Deworm with an endectocide (examples: Ivomec, Dectomax, Eprinex, Cydectin) for internal and external parasites
5. Optional Practices:
  - a. Implant
  - b. *Pasteurella multocida* and/or *Histophilus somnus* vaccine

### 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 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 well.

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 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 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. A 5 way viral respiratory vaccine includes these disease antigens:
  - a. IBR
  - b. BVD Types 1 and 2
  - c. PI<sub>3</sub>
  - d. BRSV

## **Risk Classification of Purchased Calves**

Cattle can be classified into one of three risk categories, primarily based on whether or not they are weaned and/or commingled.

1. High Risk Exposed
  - a. Weaned on the trailer
  - b. Have been through one or more auctions
  - c. Commingled with many other calves from multiple farms
  - d. Many are sick on arrival to farm.
2. High Risk non-exposed
  - a. Purchased directly from a farm or calves from one farm purchased at auction in a truckload
  - b. Usually show signs of sickness approximately 2 weeks after arrival
3. Low Risk
  - a. Have been vaccinated and weaned 45 days or more
  - b. May have originated from one farm or been in a backgrounding yard
  - c. Low sickness and death rates