

Recommended Preconditioning Program**

At Branding (3-4 months of age):

1. **8-way clostridial toxoid** (Vision 8, Fortress 8, etc.)
2. **IBR/PI₃/BVD/BRSV** (should be labeled safe for pregnant cows) (Cattlemaster 4, Virashield 5)
3. ***H. somnus* toxoid, *pasturella haemolytica*, and *multocida***

At weaning (45 days prior to arrival at the testing station):

1. **Boost *H. somnus* toxoid, *pasturella haemolytica*, and *multocida*** (if not done prior to weaning)
2. **Deworm to control both internal and external parasites** (ex. Eprinex, Ivomec Pour-on, Cydectin, or Dectomax, Pour-on).

Post- Weaning (approximately 21 days post weaning):

- 1) **IBR/PI₃/BVD/BRSV (modified-live)** (Bovishield 4, Titanium -5)
- 2) **Pinkeye vaccination** (obtained from veterinarian).

This program would be considered the ideal vaccination program for young bulls coming to any test station. We realize that not all producers will be able to follow this guideline step by step; however, it is strongly recommended that you adhere as closely as possible to this health program.

At weaning provide the calves with a mixed grain receiving type ration (0.75-1% body weight) and free choice long stem hay. It is recommended that the calves be weaned 45 days prior to delivery. It is strongly recommended not to bring calves that have been weaned less than 30 days.

Vaccines given are primarily directed towards providing protection against respiratory diseases and Clostridial diseases such as Blackleg. When selecting vaccines, consideration must be given to the safety of the product especially when the calves are nursing pregnant cows. There are only three vaccines that are proven safe for use in calves nursing pregnant cows: killed vaccines (KV), Cattlemaster vaccines, and intranasal vaccines. Modified live vaccines (MLV) provide an even better immune response but may be shed by the calves, which can infect pregnant cows and sometimes cause abortion.

Recommendations for vaccination will vary depending on the timing and frequency of vaccination. For instance, some operations will only work calves at branding and weaning while others will also work their calves 30 days pre-weaning or at weaning alone.

Rules of thumb to follow are:

- 1) **Always give respiratory viral vaccines when working calves (IBR/PI₃/BVD/BRSV).**
 - a) Pre-weaning: use only killed vaccines (Cattlemaster 4, Virashield 5)
 - b) Post-weaning: use modified live vaccines (Bovishield 4, Titanium-5)
- 2) **Clostridial vaccines should only be given twice if the first vaccination was given before four (4) months of age. If the first vaccination is given when all calves are over four (4) months of age, then one (1) dosage is usually sufficient.**
- 3) **Always read and follow the manufacturers label instructions.**
- 4) **Always comply with BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Programs.**
- 5) **Consult your veterinarian for changes in this recommended protocol.**
- 6) **The preferred method of injection is under the skin in the neck area if possible.**

Calves that have prior experience to feed-bunks (bunk broke) perform better throughout the feeding period. As an old saying goes, "Calves that don't eat get sick, and calves that are sick DON'T EAT!"

And always please remember to comply with BQA Program guidelines. BQA is everyone's responsibility.