



Keeping Show Cattle Healthy?

By: Billy Moss

Nothing is worse for an exhibitor than having that good steer or heifer that you've spent hours and hours with and it gets a cold, pneumonia, or a respiratory disease and causes you to miss a major show. Severe respiratory infections can leave calves listless, coughing with loss of appetite that can lead to death if action isn't taken.

What can be done to prevent this? The first thing that gives young calves protection is a well planned vaccination program. Veterinarians will also tell you that two vaccinations, 4-6 weeks apart, is much better than a single vaccination. Maximum immunity is achieved only with two treatments.

Hopefully calves were vaccinated before they left the farm but if they were not, they should be vaccinated for:

- 7 way Clostridium
- Haemophilus Somnus
- 5 way Lepto
- 4 way Respiratory
- Pastuerella (p. haemolytica and p. multocida)

In 4-6 weeks revaccinate for maximum immunity. Consult with your local veterinarian about details concerning a vaccination program. In addition to a good vaccination program listed below are some helpful ideas that can also keep your calves healthy.

1. Provide plenty of shade or keep your calf under a fan during the hot summer months.
2. A good exercise area is essential that also has fresh, clean water available.
3. Use fresh feed only and avoid moldy hay. Feed hay daily. If you change feed, do it gradually. The calf's droppings are an excellent indicator of their well being. They should never be hard, but should be thick enough to "pile up", look oily, and have an odor recognized by good cattle feeders. Beware of scours and loose or sour smelling droppings. Over feeding, drastically changing the ration, excess protein, or irregularity of feeding are some causes of scours.
4. Treat for internal and external parasites as needed.
5. Use a quart spray bottle with fly chemical and use as needed for fly control.
6. At a show, always tie cattle out at night (a natural setting) and never use the "community water trough." Use your own feed and water buckets.
7. Always haul cattle in the coolest part of the day in a ventilated, uncrowded trailer.
8. When you return from a show, observe the calf closely for several days for signs of sickness.

In summary, twice vaccinated, well-managed, healthy show cattle will provide many happy moments for the junior livestock exhibitor.



Shipping Fever

By: Ag Web

Calves with drooping head or ears, a cough and nasal discharge and refusal to eat or drink. When showing cattle during the winter months, be aware of what sickness can be lurking.

These symptoms and others could indicate that bovine respiratory disease (BRD), also referred to as shipping fever, has infected a single animal or your entire herd.

BRD can be a costly proposition for cattle producers—not only from the perspective of the dollars spent on treatment, but also from its effect on the performance of cattle. The disease often results in lower average daily gains and reduced feed efficiency.

Early signs include depression, anorexia and dull eyes. When these symptoms occur, sort the cattle and check for fever. Temperatures over 104°F can indicate the onset of BRD.

Later symptoms include rapid or labored breathing, droopy ears, coughing, diarrhea, staggering, regular nasal discharge and sudden death.

"The onset of BRD can be rapid, but it most often appears with early clinical signs. Left untreated, calves with severe BRD will die from asphyxiation," according to the University of Minnesota recommendations.

Treatment. As soon an animal shows symptoms, remove it from the rest of the herd and begin antibiotic treatment. Monitor the animal closely to see if it responds to treatment.

A second or even third treatment may become necessary. "A general rule of thumb is to follow a three-treatment protocol," says Lee Bob Harper, managing veterinarian for Pfizer Animal Health.

After the third treatment, you are just wasting dollars and not improving the life of the animal. In this situation, consider realizing (railing) the calf if the appropriate drug withdrawal time has lapsed, or euthanasia in cases where it is warranted from a welfare perspective.



Featured Livestock Judging Team

Purdue University
2014 NAILE National Champion



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Laura Jane Murphy: Ironton, OH
Kole Sutton: Beggs, OK

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Featured Nov. 2014 Heifer Championship Drive Class

Official Placing: 2-1-4-3
Cuts: 3-4-2

For more information on the Nov. 2014 Championship Heifer Dive Class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.



Featured Nov. Judge

Joe Coffee
Middlebury, IN.

Joe judges Cattle and Starter Calves

Joe graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Education. For three years he was a high school Agricultural Science and Business instructor. The livestock judging teams he coached were successful on the local and state levels in Indiana.

Today, Joe is the the President & CEO of a community bank. His family continues to buy, sell and feed cattle. Joe love's working with youth to enhance their 4-H and FFA experiences.



Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Callie Edie
(Purdue University)



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