

Udderly Protected: The Lowdown on Dairy Vaccines

As we move into the fall months, ensuring the health and productivity of our cattle is more important than ever. One key component of maintaining herd health is proper vaccination. This month, we've prepared a quiz to help you assess your knowledge about vaccinations for dairy cattle. To our beef producers: Many of the concepts discussed here are relevant to you as well. If you you'd like to learn more, please reach out to us to help you develop a herd protocol, and make sure to come to our beef producer meeting on November 20 at Cowbell!

Vaccination Quiz: Test Your Knowledge!

1. What is the primary purpose of vaccinating dairy cattle?

- A) Improve milk production
- B) Prevent disease outbreaks
- C) Enhance growth rates
- D) All of the above

2. Which of the following diseases can be prevented through vaccination?

- A) Bovine Respiratory Disease
- B) Ketosis
- C) Lameness
- D) All of the above

3. At what age should heifer calves typically receive their first vaccinations?

- A) At birth
- B) 2-3 months
- C) 6 months
- D) At breeding age
- E) Depends on disease pressures/herd factors

4. True or False: Vaccines should only be administered during specific times of the year.

5. What is the benefit of using combination vaccines?*

*A combination vaccine is a shot that protects against multiple diseases at once, combined in a single injection

- A) Fewer injections needed
- B) Lower cost
- C) Enhanced immune response
- D) All of the above

6. **True or False: It is safe to mix different types of vaccines in a single syringe.**
7. **True or False: Stress can negatively impact the effectiveness of vaccines in cattle.**
8. **When should a heifer first be vaccinated for Leptospirosis to ensure optimal protection?**
 - A) At birth
 - B) Before breeding
 - C) During calving
 - D) After weaning
9. **How often should adult cattle typically be revaccinated with core vaccines?**
 - A) Annually
 - B) Every 2-3 years
 - C) Every 6 months
 - D) Only once in their lifetime
10. **What factors should you consider when developing a vaccination protocol?**
 - A) Herd size
 - B) Disease history
 - C) Entry of new animals
 - D) Farm management practices
 - E) All of the above
11. **True or False: Vaccinations can help reduce antibiotic use in dairy herds.**

Answer Key

1. B – Prevent disease outbreaks, 2. A – Bovine Respiratory Disease, 3. E – Depends on the disease pressures, 4. False – Vaccination schedules can vary based on individual herd needs, 5. D – All of the above, 6. False – Never mix vaccines, 7. True – Stress can negatively impact the effectiveness of vaccines in cattle. 8. B – Before breeding, 9. A – Annually, 10. E – All of the above, 11. True – properly used vaccination programs can reduce antibiotic use in dairy herds.

Importance of Vaccination

Vaccination is vital not only for the health of your cattle but also for the sustainability of your dairy operation. Regular vaccination programs can significantly reduce the risk of disease outbreaks, improve milk production, and enhance overall herd longevity.

Best Practices for Vaccine Administration

- **Consult Your Veterinarian:** Always work with a qualified veterinarian to determine the best vaccination schedule for your herd, there is no “one size fits all” approach.
- **Follow Manufacturer Guidelines:** Ensure proper storage and handling of vaccines (e.g. storing in the fridge). Adhere to the recommended dosing schedules.

- **Maintain Records:** Keep detailed records of vaccinations to track herd health and make informed management decisions.

Final Thoughts If you have any questions about vaccination schedules, protocols, or specific vaccines suited for your herd, please reach out. Keeping your cattle healthy is a partnership, and we're here to support you every step of the way!
Daniella Rizzo, DVM

New Product – Bovikalc® Dry

Bovikalc® Dry is now in stock. Bovikalc® Dry helps provide a more comfortable dry-off by reducing udder engorgement and milk leakage. In a recent study, cows given BOVIKALC Dry at dry-off had:

- Reduced somatic cell counts
- Reduced risk for clinical mastitis obtained during the dry period
- Reduced risk for removal from the herd
- Increased comfort and lying time

Please speak to our veterinary team if you would like to learn more about this product



After Hours Answering Service

We want to make all our customers aware that if you make an afterhours emergency call and you are put on hold because the operator is busy dealing with another call, please be patient and do not hang up. Hanging up and calling back will result in you losing your spot in the queue. You will have the quickest response if you stay on the line. We have recently started working with a new service provider for our afterhours calls. Please feel free to share your experience with us about using this call-in service, we appreciate your feedback!

Save the Date – ANNUAL BEEF MEETING

This year's meeting has been planned for Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 6pm at Cowbell Brewing Co.

Upcoming Change to Stat Holiday Weekends

The Listowel office will now be open regular Saturday hours on holiday weekends starting Thanksgiving Weekend. The office will be closed on Monday October 14, 2024. After hours emergency services will continue to be available 24-7 for our customers.