



Cow-Calf Management Guide

Ila. Branding and Processing Calves

Management Objectives—(1) To identify for ownership, (2) to tag for performance, (3) to process for better marketing, and (4) to immunize against disease.

Aseptic—Note liable to decay, or to blood-poisoning.

Vaccine—A substance that causes the animal to build antibodies against a specific disease.

Serum—Made from the blood serum from immune animals and injected into animals for temporary protection.

Points to Remember

- Keep castration and dehorning instruments clean. Disinfect them between each animal processed. **CL615, 749, 750**
- Numerous factors are involved in the entire disease protection process, many of which cannot be controlled by the producer. **CL600, 601**
- Disease resistance is the interaction of numerous biological activities within an animal's body. **CL315, 600, 691**
- Vaccines must be handled with care. **CL605**
- Avoid injection site lesions by using proper technique for vaccination and treatment. **CL212, 602**
- Always use *aseptic* techniques in preparing and administering vaccines. **CL602, 605, 615**
- Remember that vaccinations done under the very best of conditions will not always provide complete protection. However, when good vaccines are used according to instructions, maximum possible protection will be achieved. **CL600, 605**
- The purpose of any *vaccine* or *serum* is to make an animal resistant to a specific disease. **CL600, 605**

Antibodies—Protein fractions in the fluid portion of the blood that protect the animal against a specific disease-producing microorganism.

Infectious respiratory—Diseases that affect the normal functions of the lungs, trachea or throat, or nasal passages.

Additives—A substance added to feed in small amounts.

Implants—A compound implanted under the skin to alter normal body functions.

Nonnutritive—Having no feed value.

Cleared—The substance has been licensed by the FDA for a specific use.

- All vaccines cause an animal to build *antibodies* and other protection against a specific disease in the same manner as if it had contracted the actual disease. **CL605**
- Some vaccines require two injections. **CL605**
- Don't save unused parts of bottles of vaccines for future use. They can become contaminated with undesirable organisms or become ineffective. **CL605**
- Always keep records on the vaccines used. **CL212, 605**
- Read and follow the directions on all the biological products used. **CL212, 605**
- Several vaccines are available to aid in the control of *infectious respiratory* diseases in cattle. They constitute only part of the overall program, and they will be more effective if used on a continuing basis rather than a hit or miss approach. **CL605, 607**
- If the animal is ill or severely stressed, it should not be vaccinated. **CL600, 601, 607**
- Your calves will be worth more on the market if they are properly dehorned, castrated, branded, vaccinated, and in some situations, spayed. **CL340, 605, 749, 750, 752**
- Before branding be sure that your brand is registered with your state brand department. **CL285**
- Feed *additives* and *implants* are *nonnutritive* products that improve the rate or efficiency of gain in animals, prevent certain disease, or preserve feed. **CL755**
- Before using any implant or feed additive be sure that it is *cleared* for use in cattle. **CL212, 755**

Good Management Practices

1. As much as possible, avoid stressing the calves in processing. **CL210, 600, 601, 749, 750**
2. Take a little extra time in branding, marking, or individually numbering as the animal will wear it a lifetime. **CL285, 710**
3. Handle all vaccines with caution. Protect them from contamination, freezing, or getting too hot. **CL605**
4. The clostridial diseases are a group of mostly fatal infectious diseases caused by bacteria belonging to the group called clostridia. The clostridial diseases include blackleg, malignant edema, *Clostridium novi*, *Clostridium sordellii*, *Clostridium hemolyticum*, and Enterotoxemia. **CL654, 655**

- 5. Organize the procedures in processing to ensure that all animals get the full treatment. **CL605, 749, 750**
- 6. Develop a good plan of disease prevention and management for maximum growth and stick with it. **CL600, 605, 749, 750, 755**

Plan Ahead

Prepare for breeding.

- Include bulls in health program. **CL602, 605, 659**
- Check bulls for serviceability. **CL424, 425, 435, 659**
- If using A.I. check equipment and facilities. **CL404, 406, 442**
- If planning a program for estrus synchronizing, review total program. **CL404, 405, 406, 442**

Prepare for grazing.

- Fertilize irrigated pasture. **CL590**
- Review grazing management plan. **CL500, 502, 520, 522, 523, 594, 596, 599**
- Check all range improvements for serviceability. **CL520, 540**
- Review your range rating. **CL520**
- Review program with Federal land managers. **CL500**
- Know location and most toxic time for poison plants. **CL542, 550, 619**



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