

Vaccination Programs for Beef Cattle

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The most important way to protect your cattle from getting sick or worse is with a good vaccination program developed with the assistance of your local beef cattle veterinarian. In addition to practicing good biosecurity, such as locks on gates, perimeter fences in good condition, restricting access of others and quarantine areas and periods for new animals, a timely vaccination program, including boosters, is money well spent. Your veterinarian will know the most prevalent diseases in your area and can recommend the best products and times to vaccinate and will be willing and able to assist you.

There are many diseases that can affect cattle but the ones that affect all of us include the Blackleg or Clostridial diseases. These are also called the "Sudden Death Diseases" since they can kill the animal quickly. Animals of all ages can be affected. A second disease that is prevalent is Leptospirosis, which can cause late term abortions in cattle. The parasite is found in ground water sources like tanks or ponds. A third disease of importance is Vibriosis, which like Leptospirosis, causes abortions and is transmitted sexually from cow to cow by the bull. Bulls are not affected.

Another group of diseases are called the Respiratory Complex and consist of four diseases once thought to be only in feedlot cattle. They are Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Para Influenza Type III (PI3), Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV). Two of these diseases can cause abortion but all can have an impact on your cattle's health. Your veterinarian might recommend vaccination for other diseases that are endemic to your area but these are among the most common across Texas. For more information contact your local County Extension Agent or beef cattle veterinarian.

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For more information:

Blackleg and Clostridial Diseases - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-blackleg-clostridial-diseases.pdf>

Leptospirosis - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-bovine-leptospirosis.pdf>

Vibriosis - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-reproductive-diseases-in-cattle.pdf>

Respiratory Complex - <http://articles.extension.org/sites/default/files/Effective%20Use%20of%20Vaccinations%20on%20Cow%20Calf%20Operations%20to%20Reduce%20Incidence%20of%20BRD.pdf>

