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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Vaccination Programs A Must!!**

With the recent decline in cattle prices, it is time to look at management a little closer. There are several things that we as producers can do to help the bottom line, but in some cases it may be the difference between a good year and a disaster.

Some of the things that go into the management is, of course, pasture. Pasture has been very good and the hay supply is well above normal. This past weekend I saw several people rolling up hay on fields that are rarely cut a second time.

Another issue that should be addressed is a good vaccination program. Things like blackleg have a way of showing up as it is often in the ground. Consult your local veterinarian for more information. Most people who have never had a case of blackleg, think that they do not have it on their farm, but I have been told by veterinarians that it is everywhere, some people are just lucky that it has not showed up, yet!! Vaccinations are cheap. It does take time, but it is less than 50 cents per calf for the vaccine. With the value of a 500 pound calf on the market today being over \$700, you could vaccinate well over 1000 calves for the amount it would cost you to loose just one calf because you did not vaccinate. Remember that with most vaccinations the first shot is just getting things started and the booster is what provides the most protection. So when you go purchase the vaccine, buy enough to give a booster the entire group.

The following article discusses some tips for a better vaccination program. It appeared in the daily Beef Blog that I send out to people by e-mail. If you would like to be added to the cattle e-mail list, or another list, simply send me an e-mail at [dugan.46@osu.edu](mailto:dugan.46@osu.edu)

Vaccinations are an important key to proper animal health, and herd health management. And, to ensure that vaccination is as effective as possible, proper vaccine handling and administration is very important. The following tips from Dale Grotelueschen, DVM with, at the time this was written, Pfizer Animal Health, will help get you on the right path to better herd health management:

1. Consult your veterinarian to develop a protocol that fits the health goals of your operation.
2. Select a quality product. Consult your veterinarian to ensure you are selecting the right products for your use. It is important to purchase only federally licensed vaccines from a reliable source.
3. Carefully read the label to maximize the value and effectiveness of the vaccine. It is important to understand precautions so vaccines are given at the right stage of the animals' lives, to animals of the right age, in the proper dosage and at the appropriate intervals if more than one dose is needed
4. Store the vaccines according to label directions, paying particular attention to ensure correct temperature and light conditions.



5. When transporting vaccines to chute side, store them in a cooler with an ice pack. Keep the cooler and products in the shade.
6. Always use a sterile transfer needle or disposable syringe when rehydrating products.
7. Mix only one vaccine bottle at a time prior to administration. A good rule of thumb is not to mix more vaccines than will be used in 1 hour.
8. Subcutaneous injections are the preferred route whenever label instructions allow. All injections should be given in the neck.
9. Make sure to use new, sharp needles and the correct gauge size for the vaccine being used and the size of the animal. Change needles every 10–15 animals, and never re-enter a vaccine bottle with a used needle.
10. Always properly clean equipment and syringes after vaccinating. Grotelueschen suggests using the following steps to assure your equipment is sterilized: Reusable syringes should be washed in hot, distilled water. First wash the outside and then take the syringe apart to wash it thoroughly. Fill the syringe with water and cover with damp paper towels. The wrapped syringe should be placed in an open re-sealable plastic bag and placed in the microwave on high for five minutes. The damp paper towels prevent the metal parts from sparking.

Transfer needles also should be sterilized in the microwave; wrap in damp paper towels, place in an open re-sealable plastic bag and microwave on high for 30 seconds.

### **Highland County Farm Tour**

The Highland County Farm Bureau and Highland County Soil and Water will offer a farm tour on Saturday, September 17 starting at 10:00 a.m. The tour includes lunch and tours of four farms in Southern Highland County. The tour will include stops looking at Seed Treatment, Solar, Burley Tobacco and Grain. Plan to attend and register at the Highland Co. Soil and Water office by September 12 by calling 393-1922 ext. 3.

### **Dates to Remember**

Sept. 3 -10	Highland County Fair
Sept. 17	Highland Co. Farm Bureau Farm Tour
Sept. 20-22	Farm Science Review
Sept. 26 – Oct. 1	Brown Co. Fair