

Kansas State University

General Commercial Cow/Calf Health Management Program

Note: The following are general recommendations that may be need to be changed depending upon the goals, needs, abilities, facilities and marketing plans of each individual beef producer. They assume that a producer is starting with a commercial spring-calving herd that has not been previously vaccinated with modified live viral (MLV) vaccines. For herd-specific management and vaccination program recommendations, please contact your local veterinarian.

CALVES

Birth:

1. If rotavirus or coronavirus has been diagnosed as a cause of calf scours in a herd, a product like CalfGuard should be given before the calf has the opportunity to nurse. Withhold from nursing for 30 minutes after giving product.
2. Ensure that calf gets roughly 10% of its' body weight in colostrum within the first 2-6 hours after birth.
3. Dip navel in 7% iodine
4. Ear tag calves with individual ID
5. Weigh calves
6. Record birth date

Branding/Turn Out:

1. Castrate bull calves that will not be retained as bulls
2. Dehorn any calves that will be sold as feeders
3. Implant castrated bull calves (unless producing calves for a market that pays producer a premium to leave calves non-implanted)
4. Vaccinate with 7- or 8-way Clostridial bacterin/toxoid
5. If "summer pneumonia" is a problem in calves, may need to vaccinate them with a product like Inforce 3 containing Intranasal IBR, PI₃ and BRSV, CattleMaster 5 containing IBR, PI₃, BVD types 1 & 2 and BRSV and/or a product like One Shot containing *Mannheimia haemolytica* leukotoxoid

3-4 Weeks Pre-Weaning:

Note: These recommendations are valid only if producer is retaining ownership of calves or selling calves through a marketing system where calves are identified as preconditioned and a premium paid for such calves. You have to have a marketing program in place to capture added value before you spend the money and effort to add it!

1. Vaccinate with CattleMaster 5 or a killed 5-way viral vaccine
2. Vaccinate with 7-way Clostridial bacterin/toxoid
3. Vaccinate with a product like One Shot containing *Mannheimia haemolytica* leukotoxoid
4. Have heifers that will probably be selected as replacements vaccinated for Brucellosis by veterinarian
5. Return calves to their dams

6. Start creep feeding calves, or feed cow/calves something like DDGS

Weaning:

1. Vaccinate with a modified live 5-way viral vaccine (IBR, PI₃, BVD types 1 & 2, and BRSV)

Note: Do not allow MLV-vaccinated calves to have fence-line contact with pregnant unvaccinated cows as vaccine virus shed from vaccinated calves may cause naïve cows to abort. If this is a concern, repeat the same 5-way viral product used pre-weaning.

2. Vaccinate all heifers with 5-way Lepto bacterin that includes *L. hardjo-bovis*
3. Vaccinate all heifers with a Campylobacter (*Vibrio*) bacterin
4. Weigh calves
5. Wean calves
6. Adapt calves to eating from a feed bunk
7. Adapt calves to drinking from a metal or concrete water trough
8. Hold calves 45 days before marketing

When selecting Replacement Heifer Selection:

1. Vaccinate with modified live 5-way viral vaccine at end of preconditioning period or at least 45 days before exposure to bull or AI
2. Booster with 5-way Lepto bacterin (with *L. hardjo-bovis*) and Campylobacter (*Vibrio*) bacterin
3. Vaccinate with 7-way Clostridial bacterin/toxoid
4. Deworm, if not done previously

COWS

At fall pregnancy checking:

1. Deworm
2. Treat for lice

30 days pre-breeding:

1. Vaccinate with CattleMaster 5 or killed 5-way viral vaccine
2. Vaccinate with 5-way Lepto bacterin (with *L. hardjo-bovis*) and Campylobacter (*Vibrio*) bacterin
3. Vaccinate with 7-way Clostridial bacterin/toxoid
4. Vaccinate with scour vaccine (if this is done, you can skip the CalfGuard step)

At spring turn-out:

1. Deworm

BULLS:

75 days prior to turning in with females:

1. Vaccinate with CattleMaster 5 or killed 5-way viral vaccine
2. Vaccinate with 5-way Lepto bacterin and Campylobacter (*Vibrio*) bacterin

3. Vaccinate with 7-way Clostridial bacterin/toxoid
4. Deworm
5. Have breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) performed by veterinarian, to include physical exam, reproductive tract exam and semen evaluation. Experienced bulls that pass this test should also be cultured for Trichomoniasis.

NOTE: The ultimate goal should be to have all females vaccinated with modified live 5-way viral vaccines because of longer duration and faster, more complete development of protective immunity normally associated with MLV products. To do this will require (1) developing replacement heifers as mentioned above, and (2) moving vaccination of cows with MLV vaccines to the open period after calving and before turning in the bulls. This latter procedure will allow the use of modified live viral vaccines during the open period when vaccine-induced abortion is not a potential problem.

Once heifers and cows have been vaccinated with 2 doses of certain brands of 5-way MLV viral vaccine, either as heifers or as cows during the open period, use of these same MLV vaccines in pregnant cows has been approved by USDA. Always check the vaccine label to determine if this is a possibility. If so, it offers maximum timing flexibility in administering annual booster of these vaccines to adult cows.

Once cows and bulls have been successfully transitioned to the use of MLV vaccines, MLV vaccines should replace CattleMaster 5 or killed 5-way viral vaccines in all recommendations listed above.