

DECEMBER LARGE ANIMAL NEWS 2002

Bovi-Shield® News! For over ten years now our practice has made the habit of using vaccines containing modified-live virus. The first product to come on to the market was Bovi-Shield® from Pfizer Co. A similar vaccine to have come out in the last several years is called Pyramid® from Fort Dodge. We believe in using these vaccines aggressively on dairies in their youngstock to form the base of the herd pneumonia/BVD/abortion vaccination program. In addition we have removed killed vaccines such as Cattlemaster® from many herd programs, instead using Bovi-Shield® or Pyramid® in fresh cows as the adult vaccination program. The safety of these vaccines on dairies had come under some debate depending on whom you spoke to and where you live. Original labeling on these products was for them to be used on youngstock and non-pregnant adults only. The research had shown and we have found that these vaccines are not only incredibly safe but also provide excellent protection when used appropriately. Under some circumstances in specific herds we have also used these products in pregnant animals to the benefit of the dairy.

The news now out after many years of research is that these products are safe. In fact they are so safe that they are now also labeled for use in animals at any stage of pregnancy. That label came with one requirement; such animals must have a good vaccination history. If for example you purchase animals and have no reliable history, it is recommended at first to vaccinate (and properly booster) animals with a killed virus vaccine such as Cattlemaster®.

There are two main points to take home from this information; first, it is safe to use modified-live vaccines on your dairy operation regardless of what anyone may say. Secondly, your youngstock vaccination program definitely is critical to the long-term health of your herd. Work you perform on heifers and calves definitely provides better long-term immunity and health benefits. If you aren't sure of the quality of your heifer vaccination or deworming program, be sure to ask the next time you see us.

Drop-off suggestions: As most of our clients know, our practice will drop needed medications or supplies off at farms, provided we are going in that area. We provide that service as a courtesy. To avoid any misunderstandings or miscommunications however we make one suggestion; if you REALLY need something, we suggest you stop and pick the product up. *We make no promises as to when we will get by your area to drop a product off.* Most drops are made the same day, with some going an extra day or so depending on where you live and where farm calls take us. Please do not ask that we call late in the day if we don't think we'll make it that day. The office is at its busiest first thing in the morning and later in the afternoon. Our staff members are doing their best to reliably relay sick animal calls and care for small animal clients in the office. They might not be watching the book to see whether or not we will be able to drop something off yet that day. If you really need something, *the best guarantee* is to stop and pick it up.

Thanksgiving! The word is thankful! We have many things to be thankful for; health, loving family, a safe place to live. Not the least are the clients whom we get to serve every day. We are very thankful for your confidence in us, your patronage, and in most cases your friendship. All we hope to do in return is to provide you the best service that we can. Have a safe holiday season.

GVS STAFF

Mike Strobush DVM
Kevin Ratka DVM
Tammy Zickert Recpt
Yolandi Boon VA

Al Harmening DVM
Jean Liljegren DVM
Wendy Lindner CVT

Jeff Engrav DVM
Jeannette Bymers Off Mgr
Danae Stieglitz CVT