Vaccine Use and Care

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There are two general types of vaccines used in cattle; Live and Killed. They both must be handed with care to insure that your cattle are properly vaccinated. Make certain you purchase all vaccines from reputable sources that handle vaccines correctly.

Killed vaccine (bacterial and viral vaccines)

Must be kept refrigerated until used, can be destroyed by heat or extreme cold.
Vaccines can be destroyed if mixed in a syringe with antibiotics or other drugs.
Vaccines can be affected by ultraviolet sunrays.
Should be administered using a subcutaneous (under skin) injection if possible.

Live Vaccines (Bacterial and Viral)

Must be kept refrigerated until used, can be destroyed by heat.
Live bacterial vaccines are destroyed by injecting or feeding antibiotics within a few days of vaccination.
Live viral vaccine and live bacterial vaccines are extremely sensitive to detergents, antibiotics, or drugs left in syringes.
Live viral vaccines can be destroyed when they are drawn into a syringe that had a killed vaccine in it.
Live vaccines loose potency in a short time after they are mixed.

Always use a sterile syringe that has not had other vaccines or antibiotic in it. (See syringe cleaning instruction on back – be especially careful not to get detergents or soaps in the syringe)

Always keep vaccine refrigerated.

Never mix up more vaccine than you will use in the next hour.

Use correct needle size. (16ga – 18ga and ½ - 1 inch)

Change needle often. (Ideally each animal but maximum of 10 head per needle)

Give all cattle injections in the neck area, never on the top line or the rear of cattle.