



Calf Vaccination Protocols at Weaning

Set your calves up for success with a proper vaccination protocol at weaning—whether they are a replacement heifer, a feeder calf, or a calf going into a pre-conditioned sale.

Clostridial Protection

Clostridial bacteria live in the soil and are a threat to all calves. Common examples include blackleg, tetanus, botulism, and enterotoxemia. These bacteria can cause sudden, rapid death in cattle, so early vaccination is crucial to a farm's successful calf crop.

Dr. Gentry recommends a **7-way clostridial vaccine** (such as Alpha 7, Vision 7, or Ultrabac 7) for all heifers and steers. This should be administered at weaning and boosted 2–4 weeks later.

If you have bull calves that haven't yet been castrated, be sure they receive **two doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine prior to castration**. Tetanus toxoid can be found in an **8-way vaccine like Covexin 8** or purchased separately.

Respiratory Disease Prevention

Bovine respiratory disease complex can affect any calf at any time. Using vaccines to strengthen the immune system and help calves fight off respiratory disease is imperative to their future health and performance.

Dr. Gentry recommends utilizing **Modified Live vaccines** (such as Bovi-Shield Gold 5 or Pyramid 5) for better protection against the viral causes of respiratory disease. These should be administered at weaning and boosted **four weeks later** to maximize the immune response.

Managing Stress at Weaning

Dr. Gentry also advises all producers to work closely with their veterinarian and nutritionist to minimize stress and production losses during this transition period.

Products like **topical FerAppease**, a maternal bovine appeasing substance, can easily be incorporated into a weaning protocol to help reduce stress and support calf performance.

Working with your veterinarian to build a strategic vaccination and weaning protocol can help protect your calves, reduce stress, and set your herd up for long-term success!