

Cow-Calf Checklist

This checklist will assist in the identification of Best Management Practices where problems commonly occur.

Individual Treatments

- 1. Written records are kept, including individual identification, date of treatment, product used, amount given, route and location of administration, withdrawal time, serial number (for vaccines), tentative diagnosis, and outcome of treatment.
- 2. All cattle receiving treatment are individually identified.
- 3. All injections are given in the neck region (or as specified by the product label).
- 4. All injections are given subcutaneously (SQ) if possible.
- 5. All medications and drugs are used according to label directions.
- 6. Extra care is taken to select injection sites free of manure and dirt.
- 7. Extra care is taken to see that needles are sharp, changed after 10 to 15 animals, and to avoid broken and burred needles.
- 8. Needle size used is never larger than necessary to adequately perform the injection.
- 9. Label directions are followed for maximum volume per injection site (maximum 10 cc per site).
- 10. Methods of administration—IV (intravenous), IM (intra-muscular), SQ (subcutaneous), or IN (intranasal)—are followed according to label directions.
- 11. Needles and rectal sleeves can be changed between each animal to prevent the spread of blood-borne infectious diseases (i.e., Bovine Leukosis Virus (BLV) and anaplasmosis.)
- 12. Chemical disinfectants (i.e. rubbing alcohol) are avoided when using modified live viral products.
- 13. When extra-label animal health products are administered, their use and drug withdrawal time is based on a veterinarian's recommendation. This information should be provided on a label by the prescribing veterinarian. (Should there be any question about withdrawal period, veterinarians can evaluate the treatment history against information provided by the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank.)
- 14. All animal health procedures and products are periodically reviewed by a veterinarian.

Feed Supply

- 1. Only feedstuffs manufactured in compliance with the Ruminant Feed Ban are utilized.
- 2. Records are kept for purchased concentrate or grain mixes indicating source, date, and amount purchased, and are maintained for at least 36 months when animal byproducts are used.
- 3. Feed additives are used at recommended usage levels and appropriate products (i.e., free-choice mineral).
- 4. All pesticides used on crops fed to cattle are applied according to label directions and withdrawal times are followed.
- 5. Pesticides are stored in a room separate from feed supplies and feed additives.
- 6. All feeds are checked at regular intervals for changes in color, temperature, odor, moisture, and presence of foreign matter.

Livestock Insecticides

- 1. All insecticides are applied on the basis of label dosages and routes of administration.
- 2. All insecticides are stored in a designated area away from the feed supply and are not accessible to cattle.
- 3. All insecticides are appropriately labeled.

Facilities and Transportation of Cattle

- 1. All cattle are handled in a manner that minimizes bruises.
- 2. Loading facilities ensure quick and safe loading and unloading with no bruising.
- 3. Adequate shade and shelter provided and mud minimized around feeding areas.
- 4. Clean areas are provided at calving.
- 5. All farm personnel who handle cattle have been informed about proper processing techniques and provided with training to understand cattle behavior and recommended handling techniques.
- 6. Non-ambulatory (or downer) cows are euthanized humanely.

Herd Management

- 1. Bulls are removed from the cow herd and pregnancy exams are performed to maintain a 60-day calving interval.
- 2. Health management includes biosecurity evaluation and planning.
- 3. New additions and show animals are isolated (no nose-to-nose contact) from herd for minimum of two weeks.
- 4. Cows are culled on a regular basis to prevent the marketing of over-fat cows, extremely thin cows, lame cows, and cows with advanced physical problems.
- 5. If branding is used, they are placed high on the hip and as small as possible.
- 6. Do not mix too much vaccine at one time. Modified live vaccines (MLV) begin to degrade after about an hour in the heat and sunlight. Therefore, place in a cooler with a cool pack and cover.