

River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

May 2018

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 5

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News and Upcoming Events:

- It's time to start preparing for breeding season! Let us know if you need assistance with your breeding program!
- Check out the CowCalf 5 app for your smartphone for easy, cow-side records that we can help you manage!

*Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter,
designed to provide cattle producers with
timely information and education on a variety of topics.
Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM*

Build BRD immunity in your calf crop the right way

(Adapted from W. Mark Hilton | Jun 05, 2017)

Young calves will develop an immune response to BRD vaccines sooner than we thought. Young calves will develop an immune response to BRD vaccines at younger ages than previously thought. Vaccinating calves with a modified-live intranasal or injectable vaccine (MLV) for BRD at about 2 months of age will prime the calf's immune response to the BRD viruses.

Often, at approximately 2 months of age, processing time for winter/spring-born calves meshes with procedures like controlling flies via pour-ons and fly tags, vaccinating for blackleg and using a nursing calf implant. Grouping these procedures can greatly improve the cost-effectiveness of processing day.

Calves given a second dose of a MLV vaccine before selling experience less BRD in the feedlot than those given only one dose. The ideal scenario for calf health in the feedlot is to wean the calves on the farm or ranch, so they experience much less stress when they are trucked to the feedlot.

If you can wean and background for 45 days or more, the second MLV vaccine can be given two to four weeks preweaning or at weaning. If you have zero opportunity to wean and background them for 45 days or more, then the second dose of MLV vaccine needs to be given two to four weeks preweaning, so the calves have time to build their immunity.

Talk to your herd health veterinarian today about getting an initial round of vaccines into your calves at about 2 months of age, and follow up with a second dose before or at weaning to help your calves stay healthy after they leave your farm or ranch. Your calves and their new owner will appreciate your work.