

River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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News and Upcoming Events:

- Are you VFD ready? These rules take effect January 1, 2017. Ask us what you need to get ready!
- Mark your calendars! Calving School is scheduled for January 19 at the Cordova Civic Center! Be sure to RSVP by January 10!

*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*

Giving Injections? Do it right.

(Adapted from Beef Magazine, Thomas, H., Nov. 2016)

If there's one thing that most cattle and most cattle producers can count on, it's that shots will have to be given, even in natural or organic production systems. But it's not as simple as just inserting the needle and pushing the plunger or pulling the trigger. Injections should always be administered properly to minimize residues and injection-site lesions, and reduce risk of reactions and side effects.

It's important to read labels. Dosage or injection sites may change. Something that was given intramuscularly (IM) in the past may now be labeled for subcutaneous (SQ) use only. Most all subcutaneous injections are in the neck, rather than into any regions behind the neck. Never put injections into the hindquarters. This creates problems with tissue damage and abscesses in the best cuts of meat.

Never inject through a dirty hide. Make sure the site is clean and dry. Make sure the area is as clean as possible. Not taking time to clean off the area could result in a lot of time spent treating an animal.

Choose appropriate needle size and length for the product given, taking the injection site into consideration. A larger-diameter needle (no smaller than 16-gauge) is preferred for mature cattle with thick hides, because you are less apt to bend or break the needle. Needle length is dictated by injection site and may also depend on the type of syringe used; longer needles are for intramuscular injections. For subcutaneous injections, when tenting the skin to lip the needle under, you'll want a longer needle than what you'd use on a syringe gun aimed at an angle into the hide.

When giving multiple injections to an animal, don't put injections close together; space them several inches apart, or on different sides of the neck. If the label for an antimicrobial says to deposit no more than a certain volume in one site, there's more likelihood of tissue residues if you put more than the recommended volume in one site. The product may also be slower-absorbing.

By systematic in how you give injections, and keep records. It helps if you consistently give a certain vaccine at the same site. This will help you identify what might have caused a reaction.

Minimize reactions with proper restraint, proper needle size, and proper technique, so you can administer the appropriate amount in the appropriate number of locations. Everyone can reduce residues and injection-site lesions.