

River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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News and Upcoming Events:

- Shows and fairs are in full swing! As a reminder, please call us at 309.848.9093 as soon as you know you need a health certificate! We're booking fast!

Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter!

This newsletter is designed to provide cattle producers with timely information and education on a variety of topics. Got a topic? Let us know!

Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM

Brucellosis Vaccine Still a Good Idea

(Adapted from Daly, Dr. Russ; Dairy Herd Management, June 2017)

If most brucellosis (Bangs) vaccination requirements are no longer in effect, why should farmers continue to make the effort? There are at least five good reasons:

1. Bangs vaccination time is a good time for other heifer management practices as well.

Rules restrict brucellosis vaccination to heifers between certain ages. During this time, heifers identified as replacements can also be given their first dose of pre-breeding reproductive vaccine.

2. Bangs vaccination automatically gives heifers a USDA official ID.

Vaccinated heifers receive an official tattoo designating the year of vaccination, as well as a metal (or possibly RFID) official identification tag. Even though brucellosis vaccination is not required to cross most state lines anymore, official identification is.

3. Bangs vaccination makes state officials' jobs easier.

Brucellosis-vaccinated heifers have their official ID's recorded and sent to the state veterinarian's office for storage. These records and ID's can become invaluable in investigations of disease outbreaks, such as tuberculosis. Having identification such as the Bang's tag number might mean the difference between an operation being declared all clear or having to test their animals when it comes to these disease trace backs.

4. Bangs vaccination still holds value for many heifer buyers.

At the very least, it indicates the heifers have been run through a chute and have at least had a chance to be examined and managed more closely than those not vaccinated against Brucellosis.

5. Brucellosis hasn't been eradicated from the face of the earth, yet.

As long as a source of the disease exists in the greater Yellowstone area – and other countries – protection is not a bad idea. If the day ever comes when brucellosis vaccination is a rarity, we could once again have a cattle population quite susceptible to that disease.

For more information on how brucellosis vaccination fits into your operation, talk to your veterinarian.