



Importance of Vaccinating Cattle

Why Does it matter? Producers are always looking for ways to save money when dealing with cattle, even when it comes to vaccines. Farmers may think that their animals or land are not susceptible to the different diseases, such as *Leptospira pomona* (Lepto), and bovine parainfluenza-3 (PI3), but the cost of vaccinating one calf is more profitable than not vaccinating, resulting in loss of animal.

What was done? All animals are vaccinated annually:
Brood cows and bulls 4-8 wks prior to breeding

- Pyramid 5 respiratory vaccine
- Trivib 5L breeding vaccine

Calves 2-4 weeks prior to weaning with a booster at weaning

- Pyramid 5 + presponse (respiratory, shipping diseases)
- Alpha 7, blackleg (clostridial diseases)

Replacement heifers prior to breeding

- Pyramid 5 respiratory vaccine
- Trivib 5L breeding vaccine



What was found? The initial cost of buying the vaccines may look expensive and intimidating, but broken down on a single dose per head basis and compared to the value of the calf, they are quite inexpensive. The cost of vaccinating weaned calves was \$7.46/head including pre-weaning and booster. The annual vaccination cost for cows and replacement heifers was \$2.72/head and bulls \$1.90/head.

What is the impact? Depending on the time of year one weaned calf loss can cost a farmer around \$500. It would cost him \$7.46 to insure a healthy calf and to protect his investment in the long run. There are places to save money on the farm, but cutting corners with vaccines is not the answer. The loss of one calf would cover the total cost of vaccinating the entire herd.

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