Like your combine, calves need to be prepared for Fall, too

Design your calf pre-conditioning program around your harvest calendar.

Pre-conditioning programs typically provide a combination of vaccination, deworming and management factors that are designed to help prepare calves for the stresses of being weaned and transported through marketing channels or directly to a feedyard or stocker operation. For these programs to provide good results, they must be implemented properly or you will be wasting time and money to get unsatisfactory results.

Don't get derailed

Timing is critical for Iowa beef farmers because weaning often takes place during the busy harvest season. Lack of attention to timing of pre-weaning vaccines or health of newly weaned calves because of harvesting demands can derail the best designed pre-conditioning program.

Farmers should estimate when their corn and soybean harvest will occur and then design their calf pre-conditioning, weaning and marketing program around the proposed schedule. In order to obtain the best marketing advantage, calves should be castrated and dehorned, vaccinated for clostridial and important respiratory pathogens, and then weaned for at least 30 days.

Beef cattle farmers should also consider de-worming and implanting calves as part of their pre-conditioning program.

Calf growth is very efficient during this stage of production and can easily return investment from implants and de-wormers.

Additionally, an anti-coccidial should be included in the ration. Dry-lotted weaned calves are very susceptible to coccidiosis, and infection with this protozoa can result in poor growth and decreased immune function which are both critical to a successful weaning program.

To make the most of your pre-conditioning and weaning program, consult with your local veterinarian, and sale barn or feedlot manager about specific details necessary for a pre-conditioning program that will work and return investment for your work.

Grant Dewell, DVM, Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine

Injectable Baytril® 100 (enrofloxacin)

100 mg/mL, Ammoniated Injectable Solution
For Subcutaneous Use in Cattle, Steers, Heifers, and Cows
Swine Only
Not For Use In Female Dairy Cattle 20 Months Of Age Or Older
Or In Calf That Is Be Processed For Veal

Bayer® 100

Reserve warnings:

Cattle: Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 28 days from the last treatment. To provide products approved for beef carcass cattle carcass. Do not use in dairy cattle. Do not use in calves before the age of 3 months. A single treatment has not been established for this product in pre-implanting calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal. Swine: Baytril® 100 is indicated for the treatment and control of swine respiratory disease (SRD) associated with Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae, Pasteurella multocida, and Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae.

Human warnings:

For use in animals only. Keep out of the reach of children. Avoid contact with eyes, mouth, and skin. Wash hands with soap and water. Consult a physician if irritation persists following ocular or dermal exposures. Individuals with a history of photosensitivity should avoid exposure to this product. In humans, thymoins is a risk for photosensitivity within a few hours after excessive exposure to sunlight. Individuals with a history of photosensitivity should avoid exposure to sunlight. For patients receiving other drug therapy, consult a physician before discontinuing this medication. For medical emergencies or any suspected adverse reactions, call 1-800-BAYTRIL.

Precautions:

The effects of enrofloxacin on calves or other species have not been adequately evaluated. Do not store in excess of 25°C above marked level.

Subcutaneous injection can cause a transient local tissue reaction that may result in technical grade milk at slaughter. Baytril® 100 contains different excipients than other Baytril® products. The safety and efficacy of this formulation in species other than cattle and sheep have not been determined.

Quinolone-class drugs should be used with caution in animals with known or suspected Cerebellar Disease Syndrome (CDS). In such animals, quinolone groups, like enrofloxacin, are used with the caution and the patient's compliance to this. Quinolone-class drugs are not known to produce continuous excitation of calcium and other signs of lethargy and in animal species of various species. See Animal information for additional information.

Adverse reactions:

No adverse reactions were observed during clinical trials.

Animal safety:

In field studies, clinical signs of depression, incoordination and muscle fasciculations were observed in calves sub-dose of 15 or 25 mg/kg were administered for 10 days. Clinical signs of depression, muscle fasciculations and incoordination were observed in calves of 50 mg/kg was administered for 5 days. An injection of sub-dose doxycycl in two calves demonstrated that the immunization may induce a transient reaction of the subcutaneous tissue and underlying muscle in naive safety studies. Initial fasting of short duration was observed in all groups, including the saline treated control. Which was a decreased in the 20 and 25 mg/kg treatment groups with clinical signs appearing during the second week of treatment. Clinical signs of depression improved after treated cattle and both groups were clinically normal at necropsy. An injection site toxicity conducted in pigs demonstrated that the formulation may induce a transient reaction in the subcutaneous tissue. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,766,566

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