

The BovLine[®]

From the desks of Angela M. Daniels, DVM & Dan Tracy, DVM, MS
Circle H Animal Health LLC & CAVL Diagnostics
angela@circleanimalhealth.com dan@circleanimalhealth.com www.circleanimalhealth.com

Volume 6 Issue 1 copyright 2006

spring edition

Our Texas Premises ID Number (TPIN) is 00778MM

What is yours? Do you
know what a TPIN is?
We can help!

Premises identification is the first step toward a national animal identification system. Registration of your premises is voluntary at this time. **However, it is important to know that after June 30, 2006, registration will be mandatory and will cost \$10 per year.** By registering now, no renewal will be necessary until July 1, 2008.

Registering is easy. We have enclosed the registration form with this newsletter. On-line registration can be done by going to www.tahc.state.tx.us On the left side of the screen click the link "Premises & Animal Registration"

Penny Pinching 101

By: Angela M. Daniels, DVM

You knew it was coming—what goes up must come down. What have you done to help brace your operation for the big squeeze? As the veterinarians for your operations, we feel like now, more than ever, is the best time to evaluate your vaccination and treatment programs. Here are some of our ideas.

1. **Keep it cost effective.** It is never a good idea to remove your preventative programs altogether. This short-term savings will cost you plenty of additional dollars in mortality, treatments and low production in the future. You cannot afford not to treat or vaccinate! However, focus on the *cost effectiveness* of the overall program. There is more than one brand of vaccine and in our opinion, there are multiple good choices based on effectiveness. Table I on the back provides a few examples. We tried to compare apples to apples, but with vaccines, this is nearly impossible to do. There are important considerations like BVD types and fetal protection to consider. Visit with us about our recommendations before making changes. Many companies will run volume specials. If you use multiple vaccine types (respiratory, 7-way, etc) from one manufacturer, you can generally qualify for these specials and can earn some free vaccine. Because we do not distribute animal health products, your best reference for this type of information on vaccine specials is your animal health distribution representative. One bad strategy is to constantly change vaccine lines to try to capture incentives. This may unintentionally leave some holes in your program because animals may need a primer dose of vaccine when switching brands.

2. **Consider generic.** Our viewpoint is that in most cases, generic products can be used to replace name brands. There are a few exceptions to this. First, in lactating and dry dairy cows, there may be labeling issues to be aware of. A recent example of this was with Banamine[®] and generic flunixin meglumine. Schering Plough, the manufacturer of Banamine[®], sought and received an approval from the FDA for lactating dairy cattle. When that approval came across, Banamine[®] was the only class of this drug with such a label and made it illegal to use generic flunixin meglumine in lactating cows. The FDA does not care about cost of drug, only labeling laws. Now, two generic flunixin meglumine manufacturers have received their lactating labels and the playing field has once again been leveled.

We take labeling laws very seriously and do our best to keep our clients and animal health distributors updated. It is always best to ask us before replacing generic with name brands.

Later this year, we expect a generic version of Naxcel[®] to be introduced. Our records from distributors tell us this is the highest use category of antibiotics on dairy farms. This may be a large area of opportunity to save some cash. *Continues on page 2*



On-line

www.tahc.state.tx.us

Web site for the Texas Animal Health Commission

www.cowtime.com.au

Australian website about milking efficiency and training; I've not spent much time looking it over but it looks interesting

classes.aces.uiuc.edu/AnSci308/

Univ of Illinois lactation physiology website that contains some interesting information about lactation and mastitis—good resource for milker training sessions

Penny Pinching 101 *continued from page 1*

Table 1

manufacturer	E. coli vaccines		Respiratory vaccines	
	vaccine name	cost/dose (50 dose size)	vaccine name	cost dose (50 dose size)
AgriLabs	Master Guard J5	\$0.79 (2/3 dose)	Titanium 5 L5	\$0.80
Boeringer	-	-	Breedback FP 10	\$1.27
Ft Dodge	-	-	Pyramid 9 (FP)	\$0.99
Immuvac	Endovac Bovi	\$1.00 (2 dose)	-	-
Intervet	-	-	Vista 5 L5	\$1.20
Merial	J Vac	\$0.85 (2 dose)	Reliant 4 (no lept)	\$0.68
Pfizer	J-5	\$0.96 (3 dose)	Bovishield Gold FP L5	\$1.11
Novartis	J5 Shield	\$0.79 (2/3 dose)	Arsenal 4.0 (no lept)	\$0.74

3. Make it effective. Refocus your attention on sharpening your employees vaccination and treatment skills. Many dollars spent on vaccine and antibiotics may be wasted on your operations. Below is an outline of these areas and key factors to evaluate.

- Vaccine storage
 - Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator. Most vaccine needs to be stored at 2-7°C. Place a temperature log on the refrigerator and assign one person to record temperatures at least a few times per week.
 - Stock the refrigerator first in, first out to ensure vaccines do not accumulate shelf life. Monitor expiration date. With the volumes used on our farms, expiration is generally not a big concern. Occasionally manufacturers do send out short dated product.
 - If you reuse a killed vaccine, make sure there aren't needles stuck in the top of the bottle during storage. This is a sure way to contaminate the vaccine and either cause it to be less effective or cause a severe reaction in the animals it is used on.
 - Label all antibiotic bottles and killed vaccine bottles that are reused with the date they were opened. On reconstituted product (Naxcel® or Polyflex® for example) this is important to ensure they are used before the suggested expiration time after reconstitution (Naxcel—7 days; Polyflex 12 mo in the refrigerator or 1 mo at room temperature).
- Vaccine usage
 - Carry extra vaccine and antibiotics in a cooler out to the barn. Place icepacks inside for the summer to keep the product cool. In the winter the cooler will prevent them from freezing. It is not necessary to warm products before administration but keeping them cool is important.
 - Change needles before entering into a bottle to avoid contamination.
 - Give the vaccine in the proper injection site (SQ or IM). Not doing so may result in irritation thereby reducing the effect of the vaccine by over-stimulation of the immune system.
- Syringe & needle usage
 - Designate special syringes for vaccine use. After use, clean them with water only. Disinfectants are counter-indicated because they can inactivate the vaccine. Allow the syringe to completely dry. Alternatively, place the rinsed syringe in a plastic bag and place in the refrigerator. Drying and/or cooling will retard bacterial growth.
 - Throw away syringes that become nasty. Reusable syringes were not meant to be used for an eternity. If you would not want your doctor to use it on you, don't use it on your animals.

Drug alert:



Over the past month, we've received notification from the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine regarding ECP. Pfizer pulled ECP off the shelf last year. Out of fear of losing the product, many producers created stockpiles of ECP. If you have any product on your farm beware! This product is not approved for use in animals in part because the safety of its use has not been demonstrated as required under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The FDA will impose stiff fines and or jail time if they happen to find it on a dairy farm after an investigation.