

Quality Assurance Guidelines for County Fairs and 4-H Projects

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It can be a real challenge to design a health protocol for producers and 4-H'ers exhibiting and marketing livestock at county fairs and festivals. The emphasis on food safety and biosecurity as related to herd health and consumer safety requires scrutiny of the guidelines by fair boards and/or livestock committees.

At least minimal herd health protocols should be followed for animals that are to be exhibited and returned to the farm. Risk management assessments should be practiced when animals are assembled from different farms within or out of the state. Biosecurity risk is related not only to contact with animals but also by other exhibitors or spectators touring the barns or attending the shows.

Designing an animal health program for brood cows and yearlings poses fewer challenges than for animals under a year of age. Most older classes of animals would or should have received booster vaccines earlier in the spring, which should provide adequate protection during the fair season. Developing and administering a health program for feeder calves is more challenging since the animals are younger and the window of opportunity is smaller to get them properly immunized.

The animal health program used for the feeder calves being marketed through the West Virginia Quality Assurance Sales and the West Virginia State Livestock Roundup is one of the most extensive and complete programs. Select a pharmaceutical company and design health programs with their product line rather than mix and match products from various companies. In the event that technical services are needed, help is readily available if products originated from a single company. Administration of a health program to show cattle can be a real challenge since the timing rarely corresponds with the primary cow herd. Most fairs and festivals are two months ahead of the special graded sales or West Virginia Quality Assurance Sales. Special precautions must be taken if market steers and/or feeder calves are being sold and harvested directly from the fair. The key date is the sale day, meaning that all vaccines, feed additives, dewormers, or antibiotics administered to the animals must meet the required withdrawal times on the day of or prior to the sale.

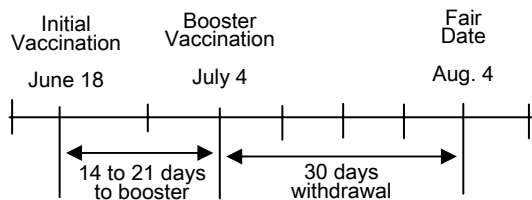
Always follow the label!! Not all products are created equal; some have 60-day withdrawal periods, and others have 30 days. Some feeds contain antibiotics. Caution must be taken to follow the labeled withdrawal times on feed. If you have a question about withdrawals, consult with the veterinarian or check the West Virginia Beef Quality Assurance Handbook's compendium of veterinary products.

If your project animal gets sick during the fair and has to be treated, you may have to hold the animal through the withdrawal times before harvesting to avoid drug residue problems. Some antibiotics can be administered that do not have a withdrawal time. The label protocol must be followed, not just because of the threat of fines from USDA or FDA but to avoid the potential risk of an allergic reaction by the consumer. Your goal is to provide a quality product and excellent eating experience for the buyer of your livestock project.

Biosecurity at a fair is difficult to control so producers must be responsible for taking measures to protect their investment. A good animal health program should be developed with the consultation of a large-animal veterinarian. Immunizations against respiratory viruses such as IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, and bacterial agents such as Clostridials and Pasturellas will serve as the best available protection if animals are exposed at the fair. All animals returning to the farm should be held in isolation 21 to 30 days before being exposed to the resident herd or flock. If you are exhibiting expensive breeding animals, perhaps you should consider getting an insurance policy from American Live Stock. The company provides special policies for 4-H project animals.

Figure 1. An example of establishing dates for vaccinating feeder calves if the fair date is August 5. The initial round of prevaccinations must be administered on or before June 18. The calf will still be suckling the cow so a killed viral product (IBR, PI3, BVD) should be used. A modified live product can be used only if the cows were vaccinated earlier in the spring with a modified live product. The booster should be given 14 to 21 days later or on July 4. If the animals are to be harvested directly from the fair, withdrawal times for vaccine, feed additives, and dewormers must be noted and labels followed.

Figure 1. Calendar dates to vaccinate for an August 5 Fair Sale using vaccine with a 30-day withdrawal.



Extension soon will launch a meat animal quality assurance program that will encompass best management practices for beef, swine, sheep, and goat projects.

W.Va. Quality Assurance Feeder Calf Health Requirements

Prevaccination: Based on manufacturer labels, 2 to 3 weeks prior to weaning

- IBR, PI3, BVD (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, Para-Influenza Type 3, Bovine Viral Diarrhea)
- BRSV (Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
- 7-way Clostridium
- Pasteurella
- Haemophilus somnus
- Lepto 5 (5 strains of leptospirosis)

Weaning Booster: Must be completed 30 days before the Livestock Roundup Sale by a veterinarian:

- Boostered for IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV and Lepto 5
- 7-way Clostridium
- Pasteurella
- Dewormed
- Grubicide
- Brucellosis (Required for heifers)

Sample Programs and Products

Since many combination products are available your health program must be designed to meet guidelines. The following program combinations illustrate how best to meet the W.Va. Quality Assurance Feeder Calf requirements.

Pfizer

Program A or	Program B or	Program C
<p><i>Prevaccination:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattlemaster 4+L5 • Ultrabac 7/ Somubac • One Shot • Internal and External Parasite Control <p><i>Weaning Booster:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bovishield 4+L5 • Ultrabac 7/ Somubac 	<p><i>Prevaccination:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattlemaster 4 +L5 • One Shot/Ultra7 • Somubac • Internal and External Parasite Control <p><i>Weaning Booster:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resvac4/Somubac • Fortress 7 or Ultra 7 	<p><i>Prevaccination:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattlemaster 4+L5 • Fortress 7 • Somubac • Internal and External Parasite Control <p><i>Weaning Booster:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bovishield 4+L5 • Fortress 7 • Somubac

Boehringer Ingelheim

Prevaccination:

- Elite 9/HS
- Alpha 7 or Caliber 7 (Caliber 7 may be the best choice for club calves since knots are less likely to occur)
- Pulmo-Guard PHM 1

Weaning Booster:

- Express 10/HS
- Caliber 7
- Internal and External Parasite Control

Intervet

Prevaccination:

- Master Guard 10
- Vision 7/Somnus
- Once PMH

Weaning Booster:

- Titanium 5 L5
- Vision 7/Somnus
- Internal and External Parasite Control

Ft. Dodge

Prevaccination:

- Triangle 9/HS
- Any 7-way Clostridial
- Presponse HM

Weaning Booster:

- Pyramid 9
- Any 7-Way Clostridial
- Internal and External Parasite Control

AgriLabs

Prevaccination:

- Master Guard 10 / Respromune 10
- Clostridial 7-Way Plus Somnune
- PHM Bac1

Weaning Booster:

- Titanium 5 + L5
- Clostridial 7-Way Plus Somnune
- Internal and External Parasite Control

Merial

Prevaccination:

- Respishield 4 + L5
- Any 7-way Clostridial with Somnus
- Any Pasteurella

Weaning Booster:

- Reliant 8 or IBR Plus 4-Way
- Any 7-way Clostridial with Somnus
- Internal and External Parasite Control

* Where “any product” is indicated, the manufacturer does not produce its own labeled product.