

Calf vaccination – the importance of three

Hiprabovis 3 is an optimal vaccine for use in calves and bulls as it provides broad spectrum cover. It vaccinates cattle against three important viruses; bovine herpes virus 1, bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVD) and parainfluenza virus 3 (PI 3). It is the only vaccine available in New Zealand that contains BVD in combination with IBR.

About the Viruses

BVD can cause suppression of the immune system in calves. The result can be scours, ulcers, drop in body condition and poor weight gains.

Bovine herpes virus can cause respiratory issues (IBR (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis)), genital herpes lesions (infectious pustular vulvovaginitis or IPV) and has been implicated with catarrh.

Parainfluenza virus plays a role in viral respiratory disease which can lead to serious pneumonia in some animals.

As these viruses cause, or are involved in, numerous significant diseases in cattle affecting both the respiratory and reproductive systems it makes good sense to vaccinate animals to protect them from infection.

Trial Results

A recent trial in yearling heifers has been conducted in New Zealand.

The trial compared two groups of heifers, one of which sensitised and boosted with Hiprabovis-3 at four months, then boosted again with Bovilis BVD pre-mating as yearlings. The second group was sensitised and boosted with Bovilis BVD as heifer calves and then boosted again with Bovilis as yearlings.

The study design is summarised in the following table:

	First calf vaccine	Second (booster) calf vaccine	Calves out grazing	Yearling heifer pre-mating booster vaccine
Group 1	Hiprabovis 3	Hiprabovis 3		Bovilis BVD
Group 2	Bovilis BVD	Bovilis BVD		Bovilis BVD

Both heifer groups developed comparable antibody levels following a single Bovilis BVD booster vaccination, irrespective of whether they received a primary vaccination course of Hiprabovis 3 or Bovilis BVD the previous year as calves.

Why Vaccinate Calves with Hiprabovis 3?

It is important to maximise growth rates and health status of calves as these animals represent the future of the herd.

Vaccinating heifer calves means they are less likely to be impacted by disease when mixed with other animals when grazing. Young heifers are particularly susceptible

as they are exposed to all sorts of new stresses including changes in feed and new challenges from parasites, infections, changes in social hierarchy, to name a few.

The cost of effective, broad spectrum vaccination against BVD, IBR and PI-3 is a tiny percentage of their value as healthy adults.

For more detail phone AgriHealth on 0800 821 421 or visit www.agrihealth.co.nz

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