

Injection Site Blemish

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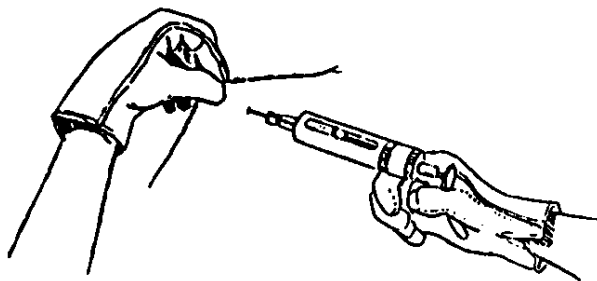
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Injections

Needle Do's And Don'ts

- **DON'T USE DISINFECTANTS**
when cleaning modified live vaccine syringes. The disinfectant could destroy modified live vaccines that you later put in the same syringe.
- **DON'T MIX PRODUCTS**
If traces of bacterin are left in a syringe that is later used for a modified live product, the bacterin could destroy the modified live vaccine. Also, mixing products can damage carcass tissue.
- **DO MARK AND SEPARATE**
syringes for modified live vaccines and for bacterins or killed products. It helps to mark the modified live syringes with red paint or tape and keep them separate.
- **DO CLEAN INJECTION SITE**
Injecting into a spot that is damp, muddy or covered with manure greatly increases the risk of infection.
- **DON'T SPREAD INFECTION**
by going back into the vaccine bottle with the same needle you use to vaccinate. If the needle is contaminated from an infected animal, you'll also contaminate the vaccine – and possibly those animals following. Changing needles each syringe of vaccine may seem expensive at the time, but the alternative could be much more costly. Also, if a needle develops a bend or burr, discard it immediately, as it will tear the tissue.
- **DO USE CORRECT NEEDLE**
A 14-gauge needle is not recommended – it is twice the diameter of a 16-gauge, which increases the risk of leakback and tissue damage. Also, needles used for intramuscular injection should be long enough to go deep in the muscle. A 1" or 1 ½" may be required.
- **DON'T GIVE OVER 10 cc's**
in any one site. If a product must be given several times over a period of a few days (an antibiotic, for example), vary the injection site from day to day.



Needle Recommendations

SubQ: 16- or 18-gauge, ½" to ¾" long

IM: 16- or 18-gauge, 1" to 1 ½" long

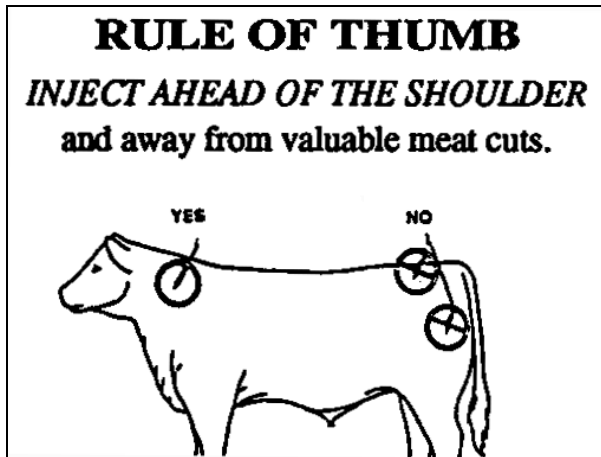
OUCH! Watch That Needle!

Every time we inject into the muscle of live beef, we risk damaging the meat. That costs the retailer, which costs the packer, which costs the feeder, which costs (you guessed it) the producer. It's a no-win situation.

Injections most often blamed for damage include 7-way or 8-way clostridial bacterins and certain antibiotics.

A Real Life Example

A Nebraska feeder commercially fed 100 steers for a rancher and at slaughter had \$189 total trim for the 100 head. But when the carcasses were fabricated, he got a bill back for \$3000 for damaged meat. This was traced back to branding time vaccination with 7-way in the muscle.



Cull Cows

OOPS! Got Her...

Have you ever mistakenly vaccinated a cow that's soon to be culled? Or treated her with pesticides?

Chances are you're spoiling the meat with residues from chemicals that will not pass inspection.

Montana producers collectively cull an estimated 200,000 cows annually, many of which are slaughtered for meat shortly after culling. It's important to remember that each cow you cull will enter the food chain in a very short time and must be residue-free.

Many of us fail to realize that common care-taker practices can introduce chemicals into the meat. Fortunately, the condition is temporary and the solution is simple – just give those chemicals sufficient time to clear out of the animal's system before marketing for slaughter.

That's what is meant by withdrawal. Withdrawal periods (in days) can be found on the labels of pharmaceutical products.

Bruising

Bruise A Cow, Lose A Steak

Did You Know?

Rough handling of livestock ruins an estimate \$30 million worth of beef each year due to bruising of the meat.

Bruises on live animals often appear on their carcasses in the form of scarring. These scars harm the meat, which must then be trimmed and tossed, a loss that is passed from the retail counter all the way back to the producer.

Rough handling will also cost you in additional stress to the animal, excess shrinkage, susceptibility to disease, lower conception rates, and a reduction in both immune and ruminal functions.

So next time the trucker (or anyone else) slams your cattle around, set him/her straight. These animals represent your annual income, so it's not hard to see that...

....when you sell by the pound, every pound counts.