

April 2023

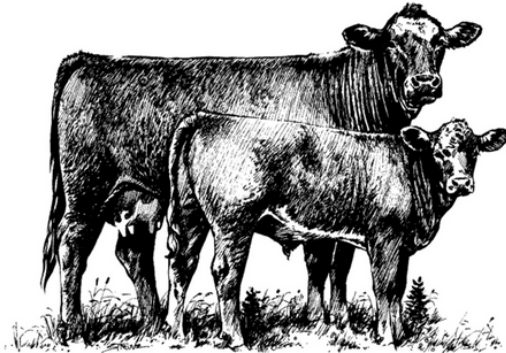
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# BEEF NEWSLETTER

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### **BANGS Vaccination Schedule Set for April 26, 2023**

If you have heifers between 4-12 months of age and would like for them to be vaccinated for brucellosis, please call the Extension Office at 870-368-4323 to sign up no later than **April 21st at 4:30 pm.**

Approximate times for each farm will be confirmed after signup! It is very important that you have your cattle caught before the Livestock and Poultry Technician arrives, and make sure someone is there who is able to assist the technician. In addition, you must have adequate working facilities in order for the technician to vaccinate your calves. **A working head gate is required, or the cattle will not be vaccinated.**

## **Last Chance for Private Applicator Training**

Private Applicators who intend to purchase or apply Restricted Use Pesticides in the production of an agriculture commodity. The training is open to first-timers or those needing to be re-certified.

In person training will be conducted on April 20th at the Melbourne City Hall-Community Room and will begin at 6:00 pm.

If you plan to attend the above training session, you will need to be prepared to pay a \$20.00 fee by cash or check only.

If you have any questions, please call the Izard County Extension Office at 870-368-4323.

## **Bull Soundness Evaluation (BSE)**

You will often hear people say, “A bull makes up 1/2 of your calf crop”. This is true genetically, but they can also cost you a whole calf crop! There are many factors such as nutrition, genetics, stress, injury, infection, lameness, age, etc that can impact bull soundness. Bulls should be checked prior to breeding season to allow sufficient time to replace them if unfit.

What is it and why is it so important? A BSE assesses the breeding potential of bulls for natural mating. A complete BSE is conducted by a veterinarian and consists of a:

(1) Physical Examination: A thorough examination of the male reproductive system follows the general health examination.

(2) Measurement of scrotal size: Bulls with large testes produce more semen and sons with large testes. Also, female relatives (heifers) retained to the herd have higher fertility.

(3) Semen evaluation: sperm motility (movement) and morphology (structure and shape).

Bull Soundness Evaluations should be a standard practice for all operations.

For more information check out our factsheet, FSA 3046 Breeding Soundness Evaluation for Beef and Dairy Bulls.

# **New Antibiotic Rule takes effect June 2023**

## **by Billy Ward ANR Agent UT**

On June 11, 2023, medically important antibiotics will only be available with a prescription from a veterinarian. Medically important antibiotics are drugs used by both humans and animals. Farm supply store staples, including LA-200 and LA-300, Penicillin, tetracycline, ToDay and ToMORROW intramammary tubes, Tylan, Terramycin Scour Tablets, and others will no longer be available over-the-counter after June 11.

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections, including pneumonia, tuberculosis, and staph. However, they are increasingly ineffective as bacteria develop resistance, evolving and changing over time. The more we use antibiotics, the faster they develop resistance to our arsenal of antibiotics. Antibiotic use in the livestock industry has increased growth rates, feed efficiency, and prevented as well as controlled disease.

However, it is a contributing factor in widespread antibiotic resistance, one of the biggest threats to human and animal health across the globe.

This latest ruling is part of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) 5-year plan to combat the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. In 2017, the FDA placed the use of medically important antibiotics in feed and those in water-soluble form under veterinarian supervision through the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). The most current regulations restrict antibiotic use to cases deemed medically necessary for the treatment, control, and prevention of specific diseases as per a licensed veterinarian's recommendation. Preparing for June 11, livestock farmers must establish or confirm a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR). A VCPR is composed of three parts,

1. The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical judgments on your farm,
2. The veterinarian has examined your animals within the last 12 months or made a visit to the premises,
3. The veterinarian is available for emergency follow-up evaluation in the event of an adverse reaction to the medication or failure of the treatment regimen.

## **New Antibiotic Rule takes effect June 2023 by Billy Ward ANR Agent UT (Continues)**

Do not wait until you have a sick animal to call your veterinarian or confirm your VCPR. And do not rush out to purchase over-the-counter antibiotics in preparation for June 11. A good working relationship with your veterinarian will go a lot further than an out-of-date bottle of LA-200.

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