

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY SERVICES

It's Fair Season! So here is what you need to know

Dr. Stephanie Bandoski

There are specific requirements for each fair/show. It is your responsibility to know what those requirements are and can be found on most fair websites. But here are some of the basics:



Dr. Martens with her show calf in 1999

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

(CVI)/ Health Certification: Required by most shows and required anytime an animal crosses state lines. States in New England allow you to have one CVI for the fair season if submitted with a list of dates and locations of each event. In order to fill out the CVI, the veterinarian must look at all animals to determine if they are healthy. All animals must have official RFIDs as well. However, certain shows within New England can still require a CVI to be done 30 days prior to the show. Certain states (CT and ME) may also require an importation permit.

2. Vaccinations: Rabies vaccine is not always required, but if it is it must be done 30 days prior to the show. Some fairs also require that the vaccine be given by a licensed veterinarian. Shipping Fever Vaccine is not always required, but we highly recommend boosting your animals prior to going to a fair or show. If required, injectable shipping fever vaccines normally have to be given 30 days prior to the show. If it is not required, but you want to ensure your animals don't catch anything while at the fair/show, you can also use an intranasal vaccine up to a day before the show.

Requirements can vary year to year. If you have questions about a specific show, please call us sooner than later so that we can help make sure your animals will get where they are supposed to go!

Should We Be Vaccinating For Mastitis?

Dr. Elizabeth Martens

Vaccines are an excellent way to prevent diseases caused by viruses. They can also be very helpful against infections caused by bacteria, particularly clostridial

diseases and pneumonia. Vaccines for bacterial infections are called bacterins. There is a whole group of these marketed to prevent and reduce severity of mastitis caused

by coliform bacteria. The most commonly studied ones are made with a mutant strain of E. coli called J5. J5 has components that are the same as in many other gram

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negative bacteria so the J5 bacterins (Bovilis J-5, Enviracor J-5, J-Vac) provide protection from many gram-negative bacteria, including most mastitis causing coliforms.

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Should We Be Vaccinating For Mastitis?

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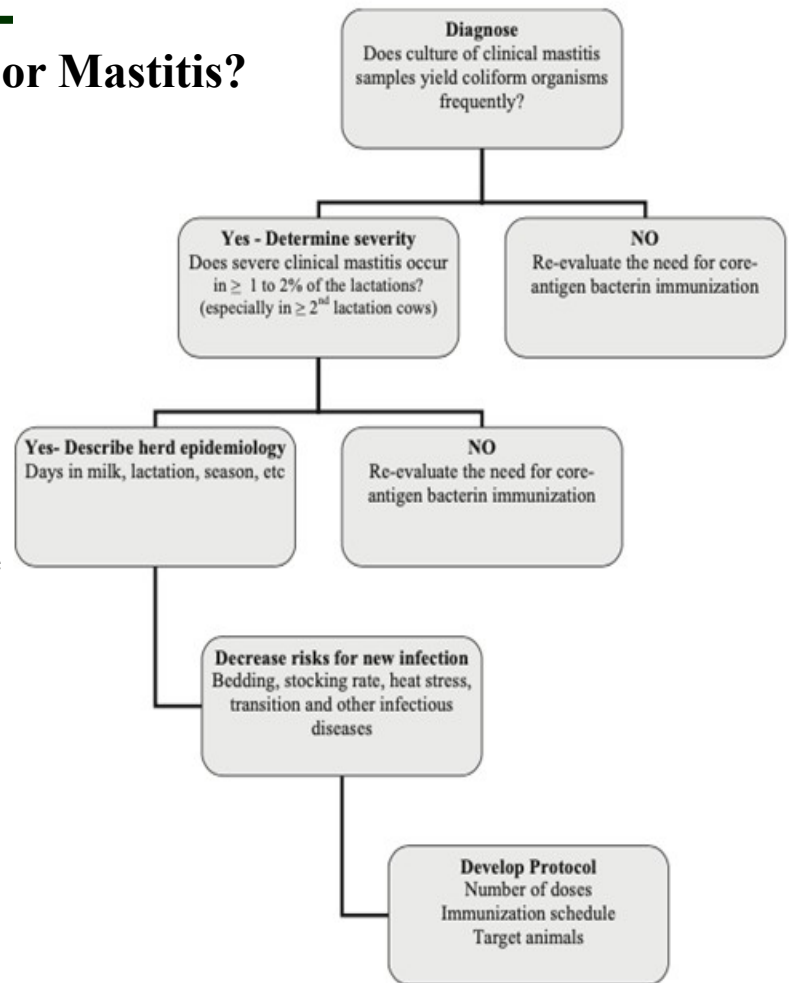
The goal of vaccinating should be to prevent severe cases of mastitis, and significant farm resources should be put toward preventing infections in the first place. Some studies have shown a decrease in clinical mastitis with vaccination with a J5 bacterin, while others only show reduced severity of systemic illness, with no change in number of intramammary infections. J5 bacterins can be costly and time consuming to administer at the stages of lactation recommended. They also usually cause a transient decrease in milk yield between 5% and 10%.

The general consensus is that if coliforms are causing severe clinical mastitis in more than 1% of cows in each lactation, the farm is likely to benefit from vaccination. Vaccination does not have to be an all or nothing approach. Perhaps the first lactation animals very rarely get coliform mastitis and the time and money associated with vaccinating that

“If coliform mastitis cases are still higher than the farm’s goal, then they might consider more doses targeted at the animals and stages of lactation that are the biggest problem.”

group could be better spent elsewhere on the farm. If the farm determines that the benefits of a J5 bacterin outweigh the costs, the next question is what protocol to use. Some product labels suggest whole herd vaccination at once while others recommend specific timing before and after calving. Those recommendations don’t have to be followed if the farm is seeing coliform mastitis later in lactation, for example, or only during the summer. The greatest protection is given around 10-14 days after vaccination and duration of immunity is around 60 days, though this number is very hard to determine and is longer when more doses are given to start with. If most coliform cases are seen during the first 30 DIM, then vaccination during the dry period makes sense. Farms should start using J5 bacterins at the labeled number of doses (2 doses of J-Vac, 3 doses of J-5) and if coliform mastitis cases are still higher than the farm’s goal, then they might consider more doses targeted at the animals and stages of lactation that are the biggest problem.

Be careful giving multiple gram negative vaccines at the same time. Combining these vaccines increases the risk of anaphylaxis and is more likely to cause significant drops in milk yield. As a rule of thumb, not more than 2 gram negative vaccines should be given at once. This includes pinkeye (*M. bovis* and *bo-voculi*), shipping fever (that include *Pasteurella*, *Manheimia* and *Histophilus*), *Leptospirosis* and *Salmonella* to name the most common ones.



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