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Best Practices for Youngstock Injections



Image Source: Beef Quality Assurance

Consequences of improper injection techniques

Injection site abscess and scar tissue develops from the irritation in the muscle, which can be contributed by contaminated, dull or broken needle.

Proper Injection Techniques

Understanding and using proper injection techniques and following the label when using animal health products will help avoid drug residues as well as minimize meat defects.



Photos courtesy of T. Kohlman

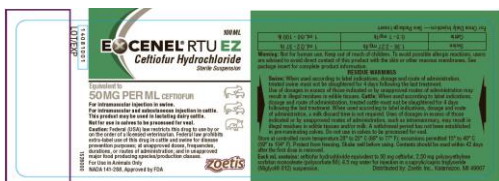


Use and care of equipment

- Keep equipment clean
- Change needles often
 - ✓ Immediately if bent
 - ✓ Contaminated
 - ✓ Damaged or burr formation
 - ✓ Every 10 animals or before needle dulls
 - ✓ Between cattle with known blood disease
- Discard bent needles
- Report broken needles
- Dispose of used needles properly

Follow labeled instructions

- Active ingredient
- Instructions for use
 - ✓ Indications
 - ✓ Dosage and administration
 - ✓ Precautions
 - ✓ Cautions
 - ✓ Warnings
 - ✓ Withdrawal time to market



Keep records

Youngstock identification, date, and treatment should be recorded every time treatment and vaccinations are given.

Job #	ID #	K2 EF	De-horn	WBC	Wean date	Antibiotics
4 7/8	1316	35 eob	4134	X	8/21	0
4 7/8	1317	35 eob	4135	X	8/29	
5 1/11	1318		4136	X	8/29	RF 8-30
3/10	1319		4137			> Gimm

Photo courtesy of T. Kohlman

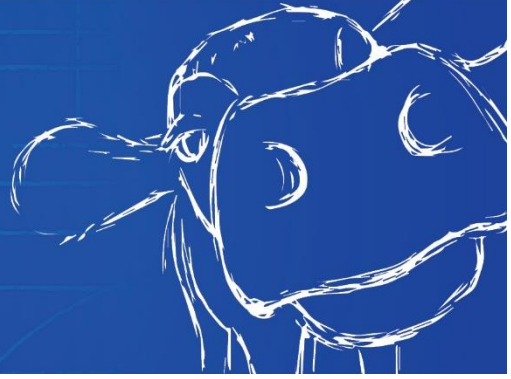
Originally developed by UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd & Fond du Lac County Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman for the Nestlé Dairy Farming Institute Curriculum, and adapted for UW-Extension Dairy Team Heifer Blueprints.

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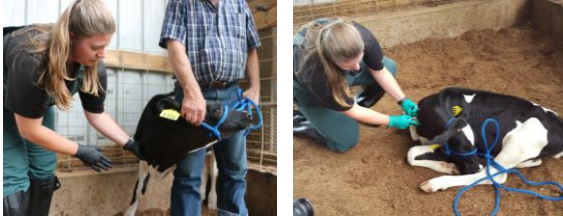
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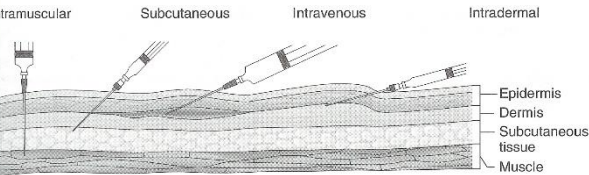
Best Practices for Youngstock Injections



Photos courtesy of J. Patton

Properly restrain the animal

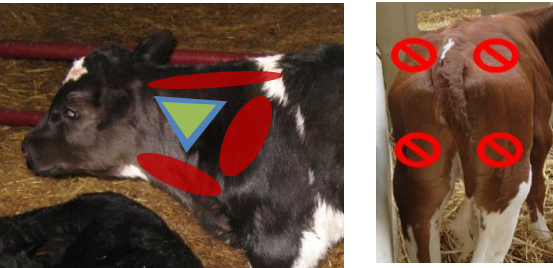
Movement of the animal during injection causes more muscle tissue damage and potential human injury.



Select the appropriate route of injection

Injection route is based on drug label, size of animal and injectable viscosity.

Select the appropriate injection site



Photos courtesy of S. Mills-Lloyd

- Intramuscular
- Subcutaneous
- Avoid

Select the appropriate needle size

Select the needle to fit the youngstock size, the smallest practical gauge needle without bending the needle at time of injection.

	Route of Administration								
	SQ ($\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch needle)			IV (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch needle)			IM (1 – 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ needle)		
	Cattle Weight (lbs)			Cattle Weight (lbs)			Cattle Weight (lbs)		
	<300	300-700	>700	<300	300-700	>700	<300	300-700	>700
Injectable Viscosity	Recommended Needle Gauge								
Thin Example: Saline	18	18-16	16	18-16	16	16-14	20-18	18-16	16
Thick Example: Tetracycline	18-16	18-16	16	16	16-14	16-14	18	16	16

Source: Beef Quality Assurance Training

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