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## It's TIME AGAIN FOR FALL VACCINATIONS!!

For those of you vaccinating in the spring and fall, if you have not done so already it is that time of year again. It is important to booster the immune system from your spring shots. Vaccines should be boostered every 6 months for the most effective protection.

We highly recommend including Haemophilus (Somubac) in your vaccination schedule. This bacteria causes a wide variety of problems ranging from pneumonia, "brainers" and joint infections in calves to infertility and abortions in cows.

For open, young stock, we recommend modified live vaccines and Somubac. Modified live vaccines will give longer protection, as much as 3 times longer than killed products. This will provide the best foundation for first time vaccinates.

Remember, if it is the first time the animal has ever been vaccinated they must receive a booster 2-4 weeks after the initial vaccination. Also, some animals may have an acute anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine components, so be sure to keep **Epinephrine** on hand just in case.

The following is a listing of the viruses and bacteria that we aim to protect your cows against with our vaccines:

- IBR Virus (Infectious bovine rhinotrachitis)
- PI3 (Parainfluenza type 3)
- BVD Virus (Bovine virus diarrhea)
- BRSV Virus (Bovine respiratory syncytial virus)
- Haemophilus bacteria
- Leptospirosis bacteria

If you have any questions or would like us to discuss specific protocols for your herds talk with your veterinarian.





## **Fall Care for Pastured Heifers**

Every dairy magazine and newsletter in the fall reminds us to worm heifers. That is good advice. Intestinal parasites reduce efficiency of nutrient absorption. Reductions in nutrient absorption lead to lower growth rates. Wormers can be added to the heifer feed. They can be injected or used as a "pour-on" application. They all work. Worming is cost effective. Less feed produces more growth without internal parasites.

Is our housing adequate? First, count the heifers to go into your housing. Then, look at the barn. How much space (square footage) is available for these pastured heifers? The space that was adequate when these heifers went out to pasture in May could be inadequate now. Remember how much these animals have grown since May!

The guidelines for space on a bedded pack depend on the size of the heifer. From six months old to one year thirty square feet per heifer suggested. One year and over the recommended area is forty square feet. Housing that was big enough for nine-month olds in May is going to be too small for these breeding size heifers now.

Feedbunk space is another critical item to check. Six to nine month old heifers get along fine with just over one foot per animal (15" is recommended). The recommendation for nine to twelve month old heifers is 18" and 20" is the length suggested for one year and over. Feedbunk space that was barely adequate in May will be the weak point in heifer housing in October. Too little space at the feedbunk will not hold back all the heifers. The most aggressive heifers will continue to mature at normal rates. But, the less pushy ones will lose out. They end up getting bred a month or two later. Or, they end up calving at 100 or 150 pounds lighter than desired.