



WVS Updates

• Product availability issues:

- Polyflex availability is sporadic. This spring when I was at a BI meeting I was assured they would resolve the issue (its been 3 years). It is not available through drop ship but we do have it at the clinic. However, everyone has switched to the generic, which doesn't have supply issues. They all seem happy with generic ampicillin and they are saving money.
- Tomorrow (another BI product) is in very limited supply. We have it in the clinic in boxes only.
- Sulfadimethoxine may be coming off the market. Currently we can't get the product for calf water. We have a small amount of the injectable product for lactating cows in the clinic but not on drop ship.

• Holiday Shipping issues!!

The shipping schedule for drop ship orders the week of Christmas and New Year's Day is going to be significantly affected. Speedy delivery is not running December 24th or 25th. Animal Health will only do next day delivery on orders placed Thursday the 26th of that week. Orders placed on Monday may not arrive until Thursday and all vaccines will be held until Thursday for shipping. New Year's week there will be no Wednesday delivery. Especially for vaccines, you might consider keeping a little extra inventory on hand for the holidays. If you have a problem please contact us.

• If you call the clinic for an animal at your facility the bill is ultimately yours. If you are housing an animal for someone that needs veterinary care and you call for the care but the owner doesn't pay or disagrees with the care, we will ultimately charge you. If you are housing an animal for someone else, discuss veterinary care in advance so there are no misunderstandings.

• If you need a vet, don't just text the vet you want. We get it, you like one vet better than another. You have a down cow, or a calf with diarrhea. What happens is if you leave a message or you text the vet you want and they don't get the message, no one is aware you need help. Maybe the vet's phone battery is dead, or they are in a long meeting with the phone off, or they are flying to Pennsylvania. Then when the vet who can't help you finally sees the message and contacts the office, everyone is busy on another call so there is another long delay for you to get veterinary care. If you need a vet today and you can't get an immediate response from the vet you want, please contact the office number.



RFID Update: The president rescinded the USDA mandatory RFID order. I suspect that the next president will reinstate it because it is critical for disease control. Foreign animal diseases are a growing threat to US agriculture because of the increase movement of trade goods and animals between continents. African Swine Fever in China is a good example. If I owned livestock I wouldn't fear IF a disease arrives but WHEN. An even bigger fear would be how the government would handle the outbreak. Really nasty viral diseases require killing every potentially exposed animal immediately. With our court system and injunctions, I fear we would have a disease spread through multiple states before court injunctions were removed. By that point, once the government got done exterminating all the herds, there would be no funds to make producers whole. Even if funds were made available it would probably be years before farmers could start farming again.

Brucellosis or "Bangs" vaccination update: The use and availability of orange Brucellosis vaccination tags are being phased out. This is related to the mandatory and since rescinded RFID ear tag ruling. This gives producers a chance to rethink vaccinating for Brucellosis. In the United States the disease only exists in buffalo and elk in Yellowstone Park. It is a risk if you farm on the fringe of Yellowstone. If by chance your herd did get the disease (which hasn't been in Wisconsin in 50 years) the Federal Government would depopulate your herd, even if you had vaccinated. The only thing vaccinating against Brucellosis protects you from is a smaller vet bill. We would prefer you to spend your veterinary dollars where you get a return.

The United States according to California: The California EPA has filed a lawsuit to remove the sale of chlorpyrifos, an agricultural organophosphate from farm use in California. By extension this will probably restrict it from your use as well. Dow has agreed to remove the product as a settlement with the California Environmental Protection Agency. Personally, I don't think the chemical is necessary for farming. It is pretty toxic to non-target insects and other animals. However, I object to states like California and New York using the legal system in their states to affect how I do business, rather than using federal courts, the federal EPA, or congress.

Preconditioning??

You're bringing feeders onto your farm and you obviously want to prevent them from getting pneumonia. The age old question is when should you vaccinate them? Back in the stone age when I graduated, we vaccinated as quick after arrival as possible. At one veterinary clinic I worked at during my senior year we brought feeders to the yard at the clinic, unloaded them, vaccinated them at the clinic, reloaded them, and took them out to the feedlot.

Then someone decided that there was too much stress. Either the calves had to be preconditioned 2 weeks before shipping or wait until 2 weeks after the calves are in the yard. Nobody wanted to pay the grower much for preconditioning. We know processing should have been at least six weeks before shipping, so the preconditioning never caught on like it should have. A lot of preconditioned calves still got sick so buyers thought why pay anything, even if their death losses were significantly lower, it was hard to measure. The Industry still struggles trying to get calves preconditioned.

If calves weren't preconditioned we recommended waiting two weeks post-arrival to minimize stress.

Then some expert determined that the extra stress of processing wasn't additive to the shipping and ration change so we went back to processing at arrival.

Thankfully the University of Georgia looked at all the studies comparing processing at arrival vs. waiting two weeks and they concluded that it didn't make any difference. Some groups wreck and some don't. So set up a program that works best for you, or you might want to pay extra for preconditioned animals.

