

Recently a client from out of state sent some blood samples into the blood lab. The client didn't have easy access to a freezer pack. In a brilliant move to keep the blood cold, the client used two frozen sausage packages in place of freezer packs. We really appreciate this and would like to encourage more of our clients to use this method. Frozen chocolate chip cookie dough packages and frozen cinnamon breakfast rolls are excellent choices. Another consideration would be frozen porterhouse steaks.



New Product Launch: Zoetis has introduced Draxxin KP. This is a combination antibiotic (Draxxin) and an anti-inflammatory (similar to Banamine but longer-acting) called ketoprofen. It is labeled for beef animals older than two months of age. The dose is the same as Draxxin, 1.1 mls per 100 pounds and the cost is identical to Draxxin, so there's no extra cost to purchase it. Draxxin's strong point has always been a single shot stays in lung tissue for two weeks, but treated animals often maintained a fever for a day. The Ketoprofen knocks the fever down in a few hours.

Samples for milk lab. The best habit to get into is freezing milk samples within 10 minutes of taking them. Why? If you refrigerate and don't get into the office for a couple days, some bugs will grow. If it goes in the mail and gets warm, bugs will grow. Then if it is in your truck while you stop at the parts store and talk, bugs will grow. Just have employees always freeze milk samples and we can thaw them. We had a farm with dirty bulk tank samples and the samples became excellent when they started freezing the sample immediately. The lab was evaluating the milk in the bulk tank rather than the handling after the sample was taken.

Tetanus: Although it's uncommon, the most common time we see it is in bulls castrated with bands, even baby calves. Cattle are more resistant than sheep or horses, but every year we see a few cases. Tetanus spores are in the environment, especially if there was ever manure. They can even be present in human feces. Get tetanus protection through vaccination before you use bands to castrate. Treatment never works even though everyone tries.

Intranasal vs. Intramuscular vaccines: For 40 years agriculture has been using intranasal vaccines to prevent IBR. Then we added BRSV to the mix. Both Nasalgen and Inforce 3 are vaccines with modified live virus that are squirted up the nostrils of cattle. If you give a bovine a vaccine for IBR or BRSV in the muscle the immune response is in the animal's total body, because you stimulate antibodies called IgG. What is special about intranasal vaccines is that they stimulate antibodies called IgA. IgA is unique because the body secretes it onto mucosal surfaces in the nose, mouth, eyes, throat, and GI system. What's great about a nasal vaccine is that it prevents the virus from ever getting into the body. With intramuscular vaccines the wild virus enters the body and then the immune system responds and kills it.

There still are battles between vaccine companies over how well their intramuscular vaccines protect against abortion because the virus does enter and does replicate, so the immunity has to be quick enough to protect the fetus.

What's interesting in human medicine is that for Covid, the vaccine is a killed vaccine and it doesn't work giving it in the nose. It still keeps most people from getting sick and hospitalized, but if they could develop a nasal vaccine then the Brewers pitching staff wouldn't test positive and feel fine because IgA would develop and the virus would be stopped in the respiratory system.

Steer Implants: Is your old standby available? Due to ever fluctuating market availability, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep a consistent implant program for your steers. With the recent shortages of Revalor and Ralgro implants, producers have been asking for alternative implants for their steers. All implant strategies need to be based on the expected age or weight to market and how long the implants last. It is imperative that implants do not wear out before the animal is marketed. Also, the ingredients within the implant determine the rate of gain based upon the amount of androgen, estrogen or progesterone hormone (s). If two implant strategies are to be used, then it is important to stair step up the levels of androgens and estrogens within the implants. For example, many producers have been using a Revalor S or Revalor IS followed up by a Revalor XS. Due to the recent unavailability of Revalor, an alternative is to use the Zoetis brand implants in a similar manner. Zoetis Synovex One Feedlot is equivalent to Revalor XS. Synovex Choice sits in ingredient levels between Revalor S and Revalor IS. After speaking with the beef specialist at Zoetis, he recommended a couple of different implant strategies. The first implant strategy was to start with Synovex Choice (120-day implant) followed up by a Synovex Plus (90-140 day implant). This is a moderate growth program. A more Cadillac program would be to use a Synovex Grass at 400 lbs. followed up by a Synovex One Feedlot at 800-900 lbs. With this program a steer can grade Choice at 1100 lbs. if pushed with good nutrition. If steers are fed a silage-based ration, then a more appropriate program would be to use either Synovex One Grass alone at 800-900 lbs., or use a combination of Encore first (truly a 240–270 day implant) followed by a Synovex One Grass. The following table gives a comparison between Revalor and Synovex implants:

Cattle Implant Comparison Chart									
Product	Duration of Activity	Active Ingredients	Androgenic (mg)	Progesterone (mg)	Estrogenic (mg)	Approved Uses			Indications
						Suckling Calves	Stockers	Feedlot	
Compudose	170-200 days	25.7 mg estradiol	0	0	25.7 mg estradiol	Steers	Steers	Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Encore	350-400 days	43.9 mg estradiol	0	0	43.9 mg estradiol	Steers	Steers	Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Revalor-200	120 days	200 mg trenbolone acetate and 20 mg estradiol	200 mg trenbolone acetate	0	20 mg estradiol			Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding or in dairy animals
Revalor-IS	120 days	80 mg trenbolone acetate and 16 mg estradiol	80 mg trenbolone acetate	0	16 mg Estradiol			Steers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding or in dairy animals
Revalor-S	120 days	120 mg trenbolone acetate and 24 mg estradiol	120 mg trenbolone	0	24 mg estradiol			Steers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding or in dairy animals
Revalor-XS	200 days	200 mg trenbolone acetate and 40 mg estradiol	200 mg trenbolone acetate	0	40 mg estradiol			Steers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding or in dairy animals
Synovex C	120 days	100 mg progesterone and 10 mg estradiol benzoate	0	100 mg	10 mg estradiol benzoate	Steers, Heifers		Steers	Do not use in bull calves intended for reproduction or calves less than 45 days old
Synovex Choice	120 days	100 mg trenbolone acetate and 14 mg estradiol	100 mg trenbolone acetate	0	14 mg estradiol benzoate			Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Synovex H	120 days	200 mg testosterone propionate and 20 mg estradiol	200 mg testosterone propionate	0	20 mg estradiol benzoate		Heifers	Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Synovex One Feedlot	200 days	200 mg trenbolone acetate and 28 mg estradiol benzoate	200 mg trenbolone acetate	0	28 mg estradiol benzoate			Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Synovex One Grass	200 days	150 mg trenbolone acetate and 21 mg Estradiol benzoate	150 mg trenbolone acetate	0	21 mg estradiol benzoate		Steers, Heifers (pasture)		Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Synovex Plus	120 days	200 mg trenbolone acetate and 20 mg Estradiol benzoate	200 mg trenbolone acetate	0	20 mg estradiol benzoate			Steers, Heifers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding
Synovex S	120 days	200 mg progesterone and 20 mg Estradiol benzoate	0	200 mg	20 mg estradiol benzoate		Steers	Steers	Do not use in animals intended for subsequent breeding