



# Countryside Veterinary Clinic, LLP March 2015 Newsletter



## Cattle Vaccine Shortages

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For the past 6 months many of our killed respiratory/lepto cattle vaccines have been difficult to obtain. A variety of reasons have caused this apparent vaccine shortage. Manufacturers can alter production lines, quality control issues occasionally occur and product demand can increase unexpectedly, thereby decreasing availability. The end result is that the vaccines that we depend upon to keep our herds healthy and well protected can sometimes be in short supply. Fortunately, only our killed vaccines have been affected. Modified live vaccines such as “Bovi-Shield Gold” have been readily available.

While many herds utilize modified live vaccines, a high percentage of dairy animals still receive a killed vaccine at some point in their life. Killed vaccines are excellent products producing good immunity if used according to labeled instructions. Furthermore, killed vaccines may be used on all animals regardless of their pregnancy status. Modified live vaccines can only be used on pregnant animals under certain conditions. Always read the label before vaccinating any livestock that could be pregnant.

Currently available killed respiratory/lepto vaccines include the following:

**1. “Triangle 10HB” / Boehringer Ingelheim**

- \*5cc dose
- \*May be given intramuscularly (IM) or subcutaneously i.e. under the skin (SQ)
- \*Do not vaccinate 21 days prior to slaughter



**2. “Elite 9” / Boehringer Ingelheim**

- \*5cc dose
- \*May be given IM or SQ
- \*Do not vaccinate 21 days prior to slaughter



### 3. “Vira Shield 6 + L5HB” / Novartis

- \*5cc dose
- \*For SQ use only, please be aware that this product may produce swelling at the injection site. IM injections are to be avoided.
- \*Do not vaccinate 60 days prior to slaughter
- \*It has been our experience that this vaccine may cause a transient drop in milk production if used in lactating cows. For this reason, vaccinating at dry off is highly recommended.



### 4. “Master Guard 10HB” / Elanco

- \* 3cc dose
- \* Give IM or SQ
- \* Do not vaccinate 21 days prior to slaughter
- \* This is a unique modified live/killed combination product.
- \* Unlike the other killed vaccines, this product must be reconstituted prior to use and used in its entirety after mixing.
- \* The BRSV and PI3 fractions of this vaccine are modified live but are absolutely safe for pregnant animals.



As with all killed vaccines, a booster dose must be given 3 – 4 weeks after the initial primary vaccination. This is very important! (Joshua Zehr) Failure to booster is very costly as it significantly reduces the vaccine’s efficacy. Remember, only the first primary dose needs to be boosted. In most situations once an animal has had 2 doses 1 month apart there is no need to rebooster. Revaccinating every 6 months is highly recommended in most herds when only using killed vaccines. If your protocol involves both modified live and killed vaccine (for example, herds that use modified live vaccine post calving and killed vaccine at dry off) the killed vaccine doesn’t need to be boosted.

In summary, please review your vaccination protocol with your herd veterinarian to decide which vaccine is right for your dairy. When vaccinating, please use clean needles and syringes to minimize injection site abscesses and to reduce the spread of other diseases such as Bovine Leukosis Virus. All vaccines must be kept refrigerated prior to use.

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