



Chute-side Manners

by **Shauna Rose Hermel**

DENVER, CO (Feb. 1, 2006) — “Doing *nearly* everything right with a vaccination program can cause you some real problems,” said Texas A&M University’s Ron Gill during Wednesday afternoon’s Cattlemen’s College® session on proper vaccination strategies.

Many people want to blame nutrition, stress or the vaccine for immunity problems at the feedlot, Gill said. However, most vaccine failures are caused by mishandling of the products prior to use.

The Extension livestock specialist shared tips for proper care and use of vaccines. He outlined criteria for effective vaccination:

- Determine target pathogens.
- Select the most effective vaccine.
- Prevent exposure of vaccine to heat and light.
- Use only sterile needles and syringes.
- Draw from bottle with a sterile needle.

- Use quality syringes.
- Inspect and maintain all working components.
- Administer proper dose.
- Use proper needle size.
- Administer recommended route [intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (subQ)].
- Administer in recommended site (the neck, especially for IM injections).
- Change needles often to reduce tissue irritation.
- Always follow label directions.
- Booster all vaccines when the label requires it.

Never, Gill said, leave vaccines in direct sunlight or ultraviolet (UV) light. Never leave vaccines unrefrigerated. Never place a used needle in a bottle of vaccine, and never place a vaccine in the hip or upper round. Never fail to read the directions before starting, and never assume anything; always check.



Ron Gill, Texas A&M University, demonstrates proper handling of vaccines during the Cattlemen’s College.



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