

Vaccine Storage and Handling

The Situation

Despite advances in animal health product technology, overall Bovine Respiratory Disease morbidity and mortality in feedlot cattle has remained stagnant. Research shows that less than 30% of producers have a storage site for vaccines and other pharmaceuticals that maintains products within the correct temperature range. Even fewer have a system to control temperature at chute-side during administration. Improper storage and administration of vaccines and animal health products reduces efficacy of these products. Effective use of vaccines is an important tool in the effort to reduce the need for antibiotic use in cattle.

What We Did

County and District K-State Research and Extension agents made a targeted effort to increase the knowledge of producers on the frequency of improper storage conditions and the potential problems created by improper storage. In addition, they demonstrated proper cleaning methods for syringes and the proper way to administer animal health products. The information was provided in traditional formats of face-to-face meetings, in newsletters, newspaper columns, and radio. When COVID impacted meeting formats, a webinar was offered and posted online. Short video clips on vaccine storage and handling were made available on various social media outlets.

Outcomes

Face-to-face meetings at eight sites across the state reached 360 individuals. Based on information presented, 68% noted moderate to significant changes in their awareness of the frequency of improper storage conditions; 72% moderate to significant improvement in their knowledge of the negative impacts on product viability from improper storage; and 79% improved understanding of proper cleaning methods for syringes. The effectiveness of previous educational efforts was evidenced by the fact that a relatively lower number, 51%, reported increased knowledge of appropriate injection sites.

Success Story

Written comments from participants:

- *“Very informative on cleaning syringes”*
- *“Excellent program, put together well. Learned many things. Thank you.”*
- *“Well done by all presenters – tax money well spent.”*

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AJ Tarpoff in video presentation of Beef Quality Assurance Principles.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl1ea5ur9pw&feature=emb_logo



Alicia Boor, Cottonwood District Agent talking about vaccine handling in a Facebook video.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=864664797334057>