

*The Old Timer*



"Only a country with a rugged constitution could stand the abuse ours is getting these days."

Mention calf scours to a cattleman, and he can feel a knot in his stomach and a hole in his pocketbook. Even with present vaccines and antibiotics, cattlemen lose an estimated 10 percent of their calf crop each year. Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) is a major cause of such losses.

Vaccines now used for BVD are

made from weakened live-viruses, which may cause severe post-vaccinal reactions, abortions in cows, and infertility in bulls. These vaccines are meant primarily for calves from 6 to 9 months of age, but are used extensively on younger calves. In very young animals, these vaccines can be hazardous and may even cause a mild clinical BVD infection.

Scientists George Lambert, Albert L. Fernelius, Leslie G. Classick, and Robert L. Smith of

the National Animal Disease Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, have developed a promising new BVD vaccine which could eliminate most of the problems associated with the present vaccines.

Bovine viral diarrhea is one of the major economic problems of the cattle industry. An estimated 4 million calves die from this and related enteric diseases each year.

BVD is most serious in young calves. Affected animals have elevated temperatures, per-

sistent diarrhea, and loss of appetite. Many calves die. However, even calves which survive are weakened and susceptible to other infections. Recovered cattle also suffer a setback and rarely reach their full potential. BVD is also especially troublesome in cattle under crowded conditions, such as in feedlots.

In cows, BVD may cause a drastic reduction in milk production and abortion in pregnant animals. In bulls, infertility may result.

The experimental vaccine is made from a strain of inactivated BVD virus. This vaccine will still produce an immune response in cattle without the risk of spreading live virus to susceptible cattle.

In tests at the laboratory, the vaccine was evaluated for safety and potency in 75 calves and cattle of all ages. There were no postvaccinal reactions. Moreover, the vaccine's safety was confirmed by the absence of any clinical or serologic signs of disease in the nonvaccinated susceptible calves before exposure to virulent BVD virus. After exposure, a high level of protection was demonstrated in the vaccinated calves. The nonvaccinated control calves had diarrhea, fever, and loss of appetite.

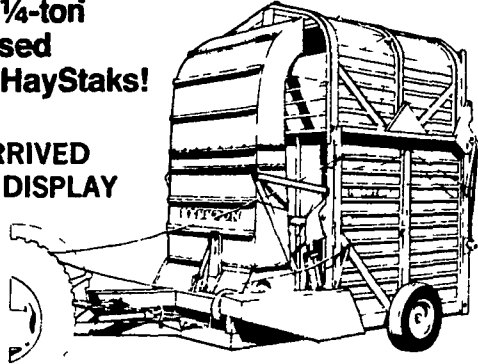
The vaccine proved safe, highly effective, and versatile—it could be used on cattle of all ages and sexes—and even on pregnant cows. Field tests and extensive evaluation plus approval by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are necessary before the vaccine can be made available to industry.

# USDA Announces New BVD Vaccine

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