

LCI Endorses USDA Policy On Brucellosis Vaccinations

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—The Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI) recently adopted a resolution endorsing the new USDA Policy on Calhhood Vaccination for Brucellosis—a six-point plan designed to further the national effort to eradicate the disease.

The LCI resolution urges the National Brucellosis Program director to immediately begin development of a plan within the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, to phase out the use of Strain 19 vaccine, within a prescribed time line, and support development of alternative vaccines which do not cause titer problems experienced with Strain 19.

"One of the major benefits of the new USDA Policy of Calhhood Vaccination is that over time, a reduction will occur in the number of animals reacting positively to the diagnostic testing because of calhhood vaccination,"

said Dr. Claude Barton, National Brucellosis Program director, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.

"As of May 31, 1995, there were only 104 known, brucellosis-infected herds that were still under quarantine," Barton said. "The decision to use calhhood vaccination in most herds, especially those with little or no risk of becoming infected, should be made after evaluating the situation with the owners' veterinarian, weighing the costs against the benefits and assessing the real need on a risk basis."

"Currently, there are approximately 23 states that have rules and regulations mandating calhhood vaccination. We are taking a little time and going state by state to research the various existing rules and regulations that mandate calhhood vaccination," said Barton. "We must understand the existing rules before we can make recommendations for change."

The USDA Policy on Calhhood Vaccination for Brucellosis includes the following six key points:

- Encourage calhhood vaccination in herds and areas where there is a high risk of exposure to infection

- Encourage states to rescind laws and regulations that mandate vaccination, such as those requiring vaccination for importation or sale

- Educate herd owners and veterinary practitioners regarding vaccination so their decisions on its use will reflect the advantages, disadvantages, and appropriateness in the herd under consideration

- Not encourage routine calhhood vaccination in states and areas that are classified as free of brucellosis

- Eliminate federal funding for the purchase and application of brucella vaccine, with the exception being infected or designated high risk herds

- Emphasize the importance of proper calhhood vaccination as related to age, dosage, identification and reporting.

The LCI Brucellosis Committee, one of the organization's nine active, issue-based committees, drafted the document supporting the USDA policy, and the LCI Board of Directors adopted the

resolution during the 79th Annual Meeting.

Brucellosis Committee Chair, Mr. Jon Johnson of the Texas Farm Bureau, said the resolution will further champion the eradication of brucellosis nationwide. "In order to meet the goal of being brucellosis free by December 31, 1998, we're going to have to iden-

tify and eliminate titers from the cattle herd," Johnson said.

"A preventive direction would be through vaccination of heifers within the right time frame. Vaccinate only heifers four to 10 months of age and use the proper dosage," said Johnson. "If the USDA policy is followed, it will help eliminate the titer problem."

National TV Commercials Dairy Promotion Milestone

(Continued from A10)

Not only does it appear that the California dairy industry has been able to come to terms with internal forces that battled against cooperating with a national advertising campaign via DMI, but the CMPA is now a partner in the national effort.

As some dairy producers have chosen to not watch television, and may not get the opportunity to view the commercials, rest assured, they are good.

The message behind the series is widely understood — there are times when a beverage (milk) is a necessary or strongly desired complement to a food, so to be safe, keep the beverage on hand.

This message is conveyed entertainingly and directed to the non-dairy producer, as it should be. This series hits the consumer in the gut and in the funny bone.


It does not pander to the negative aspects of society at large, nor does it subjugate the dignity of the dairy industry.

Some of the commercials have been rated as some of the best in the television industry.

If this isn't convincing enough of the effectiveness of the commercials, the next time you eat a peanut butter sandwich, a rich chocolate brownie or a batch of chocolate chip cookies, see if you don't think about wanting to drink milk.

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