

## **Bear Paw Veterinary Service**

### **2025 Fall Newsletter**

Fall is here already. I know many of you are still trying to wrap up grain and hay harvest and likely looking to seed, spray, etc. Now is also the time to consider your cow/calf program and health. Calf prices trended higher for the most part this year and now is the time to protect your valuable asset. In this article, you will find information on pregnancy diagnosis/ultrasound, importance/benefits of implants, and fall calf health program suggestions.

#### **Pregnancy Diagnosis via Ultrasound**

The cattle industry has moved to preferring ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis vs palpation. The goal we have from the veterinary perspective is to use this examination to:

- Verify pregnancy
- Detect early or later calves (owners' preferences)
- Evaluate if "open" (not pregnant), why?
- We suggest you use Reproductive Records at the time of pregnancy diagnosis (it's not just yep/nope anymore):
  - Body Condition Score (BCS) body muscle/fat index
  - Breeding thus calving cycle analysis
    - Identify factors of infertility
    - Success of AI programs
    - 1<sup>st</sup> cycle %, 2<sup>nd</sup> etc.
  - Health products used at pregnancy diagnosis/processing

#### **Ultrasound can:**

- Identify age in days pregnant vs. the month of pregnancy by palpation.
- Identify fetal death.
- Identify fetal gender (sex).

#### **Ultrasound is most accurate:**

- Aging (30 to 90 days of pregnancy). Therefore, June AI = September ultrasound
- Sexing (60 to 90 days of pregnancy). Therefore, May AI = August ultrasound

\*After 3 months of pregnancy the womb can drop down in the abdomen of the cow and can be difficult to scan due to rectal (colon) stretch limitations.

\*Early, accurate breeding documentation of cows and added value to bred sale heifers is where this technology pays off.

\*Verifying AI pregnancies is a good application of ultrasound.

\*Identifying non-viable pregnancies is difficult by palpation but is possible with ultrasound.

### **Calf Implantation**

There are three main types of compounds used in implants to be used in beef cattle: estrogens, androgens, and progestins. Calf implantation is safe despite consumer and social awareness concerns. Most implants require calves to be 30-45 days of age prior to implantation. This means that branding season is the best time to get an implant into a suckling calf. Most calfhood implants are designed to see payout within 100-120 days. The fall/preconditioning window is an ideal time to re-implant calves and realize another growth payout prior to shipping in the late fall. There are numerous studies that indicate the positive effect of implants on calf growth. Estimates range from 60-97% of stocker/feedlot calves are implanted depending on region. However, estimates of ranch cow-calf operations implanting are much lower. If we aren't implanting our feeder calves at the ranch level, *we are leaving pounds and potential money on the table*. Contact us to discuss implant type and timing depending on your ranch/goals.

### **2025 Fall Vaccine recommendations attached!**

Bear Paw Veterinary Service exists to serve our region's livestock producers. We aim to help you achieve your ranch production goals and provide cattle health services. Please contact us anytime for a herd health consultation, we are here for you.

Dr. Mike Whitmore, DVM

Dr. Paul McCann, DVM

Dr. McKayla DeNio, DVM

**Bear Paw Veterinary Service  
Cow/Calf Fall Program Suggestions  
2025**

**Calves:**

**Preconditioning program** 3 to 6 weeks prior to sale or weaning: Calves should be at least 4 months of age.

The products selected should meet the request of the buyer...

\**Bovi-Shield Gold OneShot*

\*Ultra Choice 7/Vision 7 (blackleg) vaccine **or** UltraBac7/Somubac/Vision 7 Somunus  
*Multimin Injection*

Vaccination at **weaning not preconditioned:**

*Nasalgen* nasal vaccine (+) *above vaccines or buyers preference.*

Retained Calves also will benefit from deworming with *LongRange Injectable*.

\*These vaccines will qualify most cattle as preconditioned.

If summer/fall nutrition is good, re-implanting should be considered.

**Replacement Heifer Preparation:**

*Ideally 30 + days after weaning:*

*Bangs vaccine*

*PregGuard Gold FP10 vaccine*

*Endovac Beef vaccine*

UltraBac 7/Vision 7 vaccine (if not done at Birth or Branding &  
Preconditioning)

*Injectable dewormer* (if not done at preconditioning)

*Clean up II* (for lice control in late Fall or Winter)

**Cows:**

Killed vaccine program, at preg check or fall processing:

*ViraShield 6+VL5 vaccine.*

*Endovac Beef Vaccines*

*Young cows (2 yr olds):*

*Injectable dewormer & Clean up II Pour-on.*

*Herd cows:*

*Dectomax pour-on* can be used **before frost**; will last in system 45 days.

*Generic Ivermectin pour-on* best used **after frost**

**Bulls:**

**MLV program, at fall processing:**

*PregGuard Gold FP10 vaccine*

*Endovac- Beef vaccine*

*Dectomax Pour-on*

Trich test any bulls of exposure risk during the past breeding season.

**Health products should be selected based on specific goals of individual herds.**

8/13/2025

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Equine Newsletter  
Bear Paw Veterinary Service  
406-265-8901  
February 2025  
www.bearpawvet.com

*Topics:*

- Spring Health Program
- Vaccination Recommendations
- Fecal Evaluations and Deworming

***Spring equine health package:***

Late winter/early spring is an appropriate time of year to prepare your horses for the upcoming season of use. They should have a physical exam performed, EIA (Coggins) test if travel is anticipated this year, and a dental exam/float if necessary. It's also the ideal time to vaccinate horses that will travel and come in with others and collect a fecal sample to perform a fecal parasite evaluation.

*Is your horse throwing his head? Tipping barrels by anticipating bit pressure? Sorting and wasting her feed? Is his manure becoming more coarse or soft? What do studies show for longevity and dental care?*

**February is dental month-** The result of dental care in horses is impressive. Horses' teeth grow continuously and require periodic care to remain in proper occlusion. The value in dental balancing to horses is improved feed utilization (20% less waste of feeds), improved performance (bit comfort) and increased longevity (they last 5 years longer in production).

Call the clinic for an appointment (406-265-8901). We have stalls for you to drop off your horse(s) if your schedule doesn't allow you to attend the appointment.

**Coggins (EIA) testing** applies to horses that will be traveling inter-state, international (Canada) or to events in state (that require it) or to many breeding facilities. This blood test is valid for 12 months to most states and 6 months to Canada. If your travel plans involve such situations, this is a good time to update your horse(s) Coggins test.

God didn't create geldings, we did. This means that periodically the **sheath** (prepuce) of a gelding benefit from cleaning the smegma from the prepuce and distal penis (beans). To properly and comfortably accomplish this, a sedative/tranquilizer is needed. An opportune time is after a dental because the sedative used for dental work relaxes the retractor penile muscle.

**Fecal evaluations** monitor the effectiveness of your deworming program. The worms that horses get are developing resistance to deworming products. Fecal floatation identifies the presence or absence of worm eggs which is critical to proper deworming product selection.

**Vetera 2 XP & Pinnacle** are the vaccines of choice for horses that are congregating with winter training, eventing, and branding. "Vetera 2 XP" has the latest influenza (flu) & rhino (herpes) strains. Strangles (Strep. Equi) is a contaminant of arena facilities and some horses are carriers... Pinnacle has been the most effective vaccine developed to help prevent this disease. These vaccines are crucial for your horses' health if they will come in with other horses in any fashion. **Remember, each day a horse has a fever requires a week of healing and rest before exercise and training or performance can be resumed.** If horses are not managed this way... serious, chronic conditions can occur.

Later, as summer approaches, every horse in our area regardless of lifestyle should receive a 4-way vaccine. This vaccine contains Eastern & Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (aka Sleeping sickness), Tetanus, and West Nile Virus. Sleeping sickness and West Nile are both transmitted by infected mosquitos and tetanus is a clostridial bacteria within soil that loves to infect wounds and lacerations when they occur.

Dr. Whitmore recognizes the importance of our equine companions in our ranch, rodeo, and pleasure lifestyles. Maintaining their health is essential to our way of life. Give us a call and we will work to get your horse(s) scheduled for their spring health needs.

Mike Whitmore, DVM  
Bear Paw Veterinary Service  
Havre, Montana  
406-265-8901