

## Official Calhhood Brucellosis Vaccination (OCV)

Cattle and domestic bison may be officially Calhhood vaccinated at 4 months up to 12 months of age. Official Calhhood vaccinates receive an official identification ear tag (usually orange). The right ear must be tattooed with the US registered "V" shield and the last digit of the year of vaccination. For example, RV2 would be a 2012 RB-51 vaccinate.

### Age Determination for OCV Brucellosis Vaccination

Deputy State Veterinarians have a responsibility in the matter of age determination. Deliberate disregard of age information when Brucellosis vaccinating could result in an accreditation hearing for the veterinarian involved. It can be a difficult judgment to make, BUT if doubts exist, consider using the following information:

Undulations (scalloping) of the occlusal edge of the deciduous incisors suggests twelve (12) months of age. If less than twelve months of age, all deciduous incisors will be erupted, but no root will be exposed and no spaces will be evident. No constriction of the tooth at the gum line will be seen. *If the lateral pair of deciduous incisors is in wear, the calf is too old for calhhood Brucellosis vaccination.*

### Official Adult Brucellosis Vaccination

Vaccination of female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age and older. Adult vaccination procedure for Montana animals by Montana Deputy State Veterinarians:

- An AV tattoo is optional if another tattoo is already present (optional RAVyear Example: RAV2 for 2012 in the right ear).
- The animal MUST have individual official identification (silver USDA Brite tag or RFID) which is to be documented on the vaccination certificate.
- A brucellosis test is no longer required (except for import into Montana).
- The completed vaccination certificate must be mailed to the State Veterinarian's office to fulfill regulations (prior written permission is no longer required).
- AV of pregnant females is not recommended.
- Understand that some states or countries (Canada) do not accept or allow adult vaccinates.
- Montana does not allow import of adult vaccinated bison that have not been previously OCV'd.

### Montana OCV Retattoo Policy

Occasionally it is determined that an OCV female has an "illegible" tattoo. This may mean that absolutely none of the vaccination shield is visible or that the shield is so faint as to be questionable as to existing. Montana does allow for re-tattooing of eligible animals. The following conditions must be met for permission to re-tattoo to be granted:

1. Permission must be granted from the State Veterinarian or their designee.
2. A copy of the original Brucellosis vaccination certificate (SV-64 or Federal forms VS 4-24 or 4-26) must be on file in the Helena state or federal office. If there is not one at the time of the request, a copy can be mailed or faxed to the office to meet this requirement.
3. The animal(s) to be re-tattooed must be identified as an official vaccinate on the official vaccination certificate by Brucellosis vaccination tag, registration tattoo, or other means approved by the State Veterinarian or their designee.
4. The replacement tattoo must be the same as the original tattoo.
5. An additional follow-up VS 4-24 or 4-26 form must be completed and submitted to the Helena office showing tag numbers, tattoo symbols, and dates re-tattooed.

### Report Human Exposure

If you have accidentally been exposed to *Brucella abortus* Strain RB-51 bacterin, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is interested in hearing about your exposure. In addition, you may call the CDC to discuss therapy and other recommendations to protect your health.

For technical assistance or consultation, contact: Center for Disease Control  
Bacterial Zoonoses Branch  
Atlanta, Georgia  
**PHONE: (404) 639-1711**