

Official CalfhooD Brucellosis Vaccination (OCV)

Cattle and domestic bison may be officially calfhooD vaccinated at 4 months up to 12 months of age. Official calfhooD vaccinates receive an official identification ear tag (usually orange, see below for details). The right ear must be tattooed with the US registered "V" shield and the last digit of the year of vaccination. For example, RV9 would be a 2019 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 calfhooD Brucellosis vaccination.*

Official Identification for CalfhooD Vaccination (OCV)

- If an animal already has official ID, DO NOT add another form of ID unless adding an RFID to an animal with a metal NUES tag.
- For calfhooD vaccinates, while the accepted standard is an orange metal or RFID tag, any approved form of official ID can be used. Please note, however, orange tags can ONLY be used for calfhooD vaccination.
- Place metal NUES (orange OCV or silver "Brite") tags in the right ear.
- If applying RFID tags, MDOL recommends placement in the middle rib of the left ear, towards the head from the site of application of the dangle or ranch tag

Official Adult Brucellosis Vaccination of Montana Animals

Vaccination of female cattle and domestic bison greater than 12 months of age:

- Vaccinated with a full dose (2CC) of regularly reconstituted RB51 vaccine.
- Permanently identified with a legible adult vaccination tattoo in the right ear (example: RAV9 if adult vaccinated in 2019). AV tattoo is optional if another brucellosis vaccination tattoo is already present.
- Permanently identified with an official individual identification tag which is to be documented on the vaccination certificate.
- The completed vaccination certificate must be mailed to the State Veterinarian's office within 7 business days.
- AV of pregnant females is not recommended.
- A brucellosis test is not required.

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:

- Permission must be granted from the State Veterinarian or their designee.
- 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.
- The animal(s) to be re-tattooed must be identified as an official vaccinate on the official vaccination certificate by Brucellosis vaccination tag or other means approved by the State Veterinarian or their designee.
- The replacement tattoo must be the same as the original tattoo.
- 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