

## 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, RV1 would be a 2021 RB-51 vaccinate.

### Age Determination for OCV

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 OCV

- If an animal already has official ID, DO NOT add another form of ID unless adding an 840-RFID to an animal with a metal NUES tag.
- For calfhooD vaccinates, while the accepted standard is an orange 840-RFID tag, any approved 840-RFID tag can be used. Please note, however, orange tags can ONLY be used for calfhooD vaccination events, never a non-vaccination event.
- When 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 (AV)

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

- Vaccinated with a full dose (2CC) of regularly reconstituted RB51 vaccine.
- Permanent identification with a legible AV tattoo in the right ear is optional (example: RAV1 if adult vaccinated in 2021).
- Permanently identified with an official individual identification tag which is to be documented on the vaccination certificate.
- The completed vaccination certificate must be forwarded to the State Veterinarian’s office within 7 business days.
- AV of pregnant females is not recommended.
- A brucellosis test is not required.

### Montana 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 submitted 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 Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is interested in hearing about your exposure. In addition, you may call DPHHS to discuss therapy and other recommendations to protect your health.

For technical assistance or consultation, contact: **Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services**  
Epidemiologist Group  
24-hour hotline  
**PHONE: (406) 639-1711**