



**Northwest
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Product Backorders affecting Protocols

April Newsletter Prepared by Dr. Jen Hull

With the pandemic in full swing, many of our pharmaceutical companies are struggling to keep up with production of vaccines and antibiotics. Some of these product backorders have created change within our established treatment/vaccination protocols on farm. When products go on backorder, make sure to talk with your herd veterinarian to find a proper replacement product and adjust your protocols as needed.

Dry Cow Treatment:

Many of you have found out recently that Tomorrow is on backorder and will likely be that way for a while. If you happen to have used this product, there are several alternative treatments out there, but make sure to do some research before switching! The beef and milk withholds among products vary dramatically, anywhere from 28 days to 60 days and the labels can be tricky. For instance, if you switch to a product that has a beef withhold of 60 days and a milk withhold of 96 hours if she calves earlier than the 60 days after treatment, the milk will have to be tested before going in the tank. The 96 hour milk withhold is only AFTER the medication has been in the cow for 60 days. Another example is a product that has a 28 day meat withhold and 0 hour milk withhold. But again, this 0 hour milk withhold is only if the animal has been dry for 28 days. If she calves early, the milk will still need to be held out of the tank and tested.

It is incredibly important to record which animal gets what product at the time of dry off, especially if you are switching products. Several weeks from now when she calves in, it will be crucial to know how long the milk needs to stay out of the tank, and when the cow will be safe for slaughter should that be necessary.

Some folks have considered using selective dry cow therapy, meaning not all cows dried off will get treated. This can work in some situations, but I urge you to work with your herd health vet to develop a plan. Selective therapy works best when using data such as somatic cell count, percentage of cases of clinical mastitis, and when the farm has an overall extremely low incidence of contagious mastitis pathogens. Cows that have a history of clinical mastitis or high cell counts are not ideal candidates to skip dry treating. It is also recommended that when using selective dry cow therapy, all cows are still given a teat sealant. When administering the sealant, it is imperative to be as clean as possible to avoid contaminating the teat ends. If this is something you are considering, please talk with your herd vet so they can help you modify your protocols!



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Vaccines:

Just a quick review of respiratory/reproductive vaccines to refresh your memory. With some of the products you typically use on backorder, it is important that the replacement product be similar in type. Killed vaccines are safe for use in pregnant animals, whereas modified live vaccines are only safe for pregnant animals in certain situations (if the brand is labeled that way, and the animal has seen the product as a pre-breeding heifer). There are also intranasal respiratory vaccines that can be used in pregnant animals if the brand is labeled that way. The interesting part about intranasal vaccines is that they stimulate the immune system of the cow differently and can produce a response to the vaccine very quickly. These can be given at times of stress (before movement, in the face of illness) and still be effective. If the product you typically purchase is unavailable, talk with your herd health vet to be sure you have the proper replacement.

Tri-Shield First Defense

This product is unique, as it provides antibodies directly to the calf in the form of an oral paste. It protects against E. Coli, Rotavirus, and Coronavirus which can cause scours in newborn calves. This product has been on limited supply, and unfortunately there is no replacement product that contains all three antibodies. The traditional First Defense boluses provide protection from E. Coli and Coronavirus, but not Rotavirus. There are injectable vaccines that can be given to the cows at the time of dry off that can protect the calf via colostrum to all three diseases. There is also an oral vaccine that can stimulate the calf to produce their own antibodies against all three diseases, but it must be given at the time of birth PRIOR to colostrum feeding. There are many oral products out there on the market that claim to help prevent calf scours and help with immunity, and they might help, but just remember there is no direct replacement for the antibodies contained in the Tri-shield product. Talk with your herd veterinarian to make sure there is a plan in place to keep calf scours at bay if Tri-Shield is being used on your farm and is unavailable.



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