

Is RB-51 safe and effective?

Field safety trials were conducted in several states, including Texas, where more than 2,500 female cattle were vaccinated. No abnormal reactions to the vaccine were noted in follow-up observations.

Before issuing a conditional license, the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires that all vaccines for use in animals meet strict standards for purity, strength, safety and effectiveness.

RB-51, like Strain 19, is a live vaccine, derived brucellosis bacteria. An accredited veterinarian approved to do brucellosis work must administer the vaccine to cattle.

What's different about RB-51?

Unlike Strain 19, RB-51 vaccine doesn't create confusion with brucellosis tests, including Card or CITE tests run at the livestock markets, or any of the tests run in the laboratory.

Producers can move cattle more easily and states can progress toward Class "Free" brucellosis status without the problems caused by "false-positive" tests!

Will other states accept cattle vaccinated with RB-51?

The U.S. Animal Health Association's Brucellosis Committee has recommended RB-51's use as an approved product to be incorporated into the national brucellosis eradication effort.

Acting on that recommendation, the USDA has recognized RB-51 vaccine as an official product for the eradication effort. This should allow most, and probably all, states and foreign countries with entry requirements for vaccination to accept RB-51 vaccines.

What about licensing?

The conditional license is issued for a two-year period to expedite distribution of the product in a timely manner. The licensing assures safety and purity, as well as reasonable expectations for its effectiveness.

The USDA's Veterinary Biologics will review the documentation and product for a full, unconditional license, expected within two years.

*Need more information? Call the
Washington State Department of Agriculture
in Olympia at (360) 902-1881 or (360) 902-1835.*

Inquiries regarding the availability of this publication in an alternative format should be directed to the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (360) 902-1996.

PUB 006 (R/12/99)

**Changing
the
direction of
vaccination...
RB-51
Brucellosis
Vaccine!**

"Because Animal Health Matters"



Information from the
Washington State Veterinarian
Washington State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 42577
Olympia, WA 98504-2577

For years, “false-positive” brucellosis test results caused by Strain 19 vaccine have been a problem for cattle producers and animal health officials.

Now there’s a new vaccine with great promise! Field trials to date have shown no “false-positive” results to brucellosis tests!

Heifers were protected at a level comparable to Strain 19 but had none of the “false-positive” test results producers and veterinarians DON’T want!

What’s the new vaccine?

The Technical name is *Brucella Abortus* Vaccine, Strain RB-51. As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s two-year conditional licensing agreement, no trade names can be used with the product, and its advertising will be very restricted.

The development of RB-51 vaccine is a sterling example of cooperative efforts among public and private sector researchers and the livestock industry.

Professional Biological Company, a subsidiary of Colorado Serum Company of Denver is producing the RB-51 vaccine. This same company was a producer of Strain 19 vaccine for more than 40 years.

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Comparing Strain 19 and RB-51 Vaccines

	Strain 19	RB-51
Packaging	Provided in five-dose vials.	Provided in five- and 25-dose packages.
Cost & Distribution	Strain 19 vaccine may no longer be distributed in Washington State without specific permission from the State Veterinarian.	Veterinarians may order RB-51 vaccine at a reasonable cost through routine biologics distributors. Veterinarians charge producers for travel, time, supplies, etc.
Shelf-life & Storage	Shelf-life, one year. Keep refrigerated. After mixing, keep on ice between drawing up doses; use mixed vaccine within an hour.	Same as Strain 19. Always shake vial immediately before drawing up doses!
Vaccine Administration	Live vaccine derived from brucellosis bacteria. Use is limited to USDA-accredited veterinarians. Do not administer with antibiotics.	Same as Strain 19.
Vaccine Age	Dairy Heifers, 4 to 8 months Beef Heifers, 4 to 12 months (Lower dose for adult vaccination in infected herds.)	All Heifers, 4 to 12 months Adult dose not authorized by USDA except in infected herds.
Calf Dose	2cc dosage— 2.7 to 10 billion organisms	2cc dosage— 10 to 34 billion organisms
Paperwork/ Records	Vaccination form, USDA’s Veterinary Services form VS 4-26	Same as Strain 19
Identification of Vaccinated Stock	USDA eartag. Also ear tattoo with a number representing the quarter of the year, a “V” shield, and a number representing the year. Example: “4V6” would be a fourth quarter 1996 Strain 19 vaccinate.	USDA eartag. Also ear tattoo with an “R,” followed by the “V” shield, and one number representing the year. Example: “RV6” would be a 1996 RB-51 vaccinate.
Withhold From Slaughter After Vaccination	Three weeks.	12 weeks.