

# Lesion Rates and the Effects of Location of Subcutaneous Clostridial Bacterin-Toxoid Vaccination on Performance of Newly Received Feedlot Calves

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## Abstract

Study objectives were: 1) to determine the effect on growth of administering a clostridial vaccination at the base of the ear, versus in the neck; 2) determine the relative risk of developing an injection site reaction and(or) being mis-diagnosed with bovine respiratory disease (BRD); and 3) determine the percentage of subcutaneous neck injection-site reactions that are removed during hide pulling. Newly received calves (n = 170) were assigned randomly to one of two clostridial vaccination location treatments, 1) base of ear or 2) neck. Mean daily gains for ear vaccinates for the feeding pe-

riod were 1.28 kg, and gains for neck vaccinates were 1.25 kg ( $P = 0.45$ ). Power ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ) was adequate to detect an 8% change in gain. Risk of BRD mis-diagnosis was not related to either vaccination site. Ear vaccinates were at a higher risk of having an injection site reaction at day 57 or 62 and(or) at slaughter. Of the injection-site reactions in the neck, 89% (95% CI = 52 – 100%) could not be located on the carcass after the hide was pulled. Clostridial vaccination location has no clinically significant effect on health or gain performance, and the majority of subcutaneous injection site reactions are removed with the hide.

## Unilateral Castration in Bulls: 20 Cases (1989-1999)

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## Introduction

Surprisingly little data is available regarding productivity of bulls following unilateral castration. Heath *et al* (1996) published a study on 8 bulls which demonstrated a productive return to pasture breeding after unilateral castrations. The purpose of this retrospective study was to review a large number of bulls with uni-

lateral castration to describe techniques used, post-operative complications and return to semen production or breeding soundness.

## Materials and Methods

A computer assisted search was made of medical records of all bulls examined due to scrotal disease. All