

Practical Tips for Implementing a BLV Control Program

NYS Cattle Health Assurance Program



Oxytocin Use on the Farm

- If used routinely for milk let down,
 - * Have a bottle designated for each cow
 - * Have well marked bottles for positive and negative cows. Handle negative bottles with single use needles only

Single Use Needles

- Use multi-pocket carpenter's apron to stock needles
 - * At herd health visit stock apron with prostaglandin, GnRH, ECP, booster vaccines, etc., as well as needles
 - * Attach gallon plastic jug on belt to dispose of needles
- Use leather apron and dispose of needles in apron
- For some injections, it may be easier to draw all doses prior to giving shot
 - * Excellent idea when injecting substances where there is a human risk (i.e. brucellosis, TB)
- Empty shampoo bottle tucked in a rubber boot can be used to dispose of needles



Disinfecting Equipment

- A minimum disinfectant is detergent or a weak solution of bleach, however, this will not be effective for other pathogens
- Have two sets of equipment, keep one in disinfectant at all times
- Place disinfectant outside of pen when working with loose housed animals
- Equipment to be disinfected includes:
 - * Dehorers, tattoo pliers, ear taggers, hoof knives, nose tongs, rectal ultrasound equipment, tail docking instruments, medicine vials, ear notchers, teat removal equipment, pill gun
 - * Have two sets of IV tubing, clean with detergent, rinse with water and let dry; have one ready to use
- Ensure all personnel working on farm (employees and agriservice) are aware of disinfection protocols



Single Use OB Sleeves

- Decide prior to rectal exams where to dispose of sleeves in facilities where animals are loose housed
 - * Empty, clean pour-on insecticide containers often have straps for easy carrying
 - * Cut hole in side to store new or used sleeves
- Changing sleeves easily with sweaty arms
 - * Cut fingers off one sleeve and put on bare arm
 - * Place shoulder protector over fingerless sleeve
 - * Wear single use sleeve over both

