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Spring cleaning important in your barn's work area

Spring is nearly here (at least according to the calendar). Besides calving and getting ready for planting season, many of you probably have someone starting the ritual of spring cleaning around the house.

On warm days, the windows are opened to let in fresh air as we try to shake off the long cold winter. If cleaning the house isn't your thing, then why not head to the barn and do a little spring cleaning there.

Start out in the vet shack, treatment room or whatever other name you use for where you

keep medicine, vaccine etc. Check the expiration dates and toss anything that has expired. Pharmaceuticals do deteriorate over time, and if it is out-of-date, it will not work as well as it should.

In the future, think about buying smaller bottles so you can use them up before they expire.

Next look at the rubber stopper on top of the bottle. Is it full of holes? If the rubber is not intact enough to keep dirt and germs out, then it should go. Once you penetrate the

stopper, you may have introduced contaminants into that vaccine that may be harmful.

Take a look at the label, what are the storage directions? If your storage area can't maintain the proper temperature (should not freeze or get above 86°F) according to the label, then it is probably damaged.

Check the refrigerator

Any killed vaccine such as a 7-way clostridial or viral vaccine that you used last year should probably be replaced.

How good is your refrigerator? Does it really hold temperature around 35°F or does it fluctuate between 25° and 45°. Modified Live vaccines that have gotten warm or frozen will not be viable when you reconstitute them. Consider buying a cheap thermometer that monitors highs and lows so you can verify your refrigerator is doing its job.

It's more than medications

Make sure all your other equipment is clean and in good working order. Clean any dirt or grime off the calf chains, ear taggers and other equipment and apply lubrication to keep in good working order and prevent rust.

Lastly, organize and store your equipment to keep it safe. Use tool boxes with a handle for items that you need to take with you often such as calving equipment, tagging equipment, etc. Store your pistol grip syringes in individual ziplock bags to keep clean and dry. Make sure you label the syringe and bag with what vaccine it was used for (MLV, clostridial, etc.).

Other items that are not used often can be stored in clear tote boxes so you can easily find it when you need it.

Enjoy the spring weather and may your calving season be successful.

GOLDEN CHUTE Generations RANCH of Performance

Bloomfield Sale is March 16.
 Dunlap Sale is March 27.

We are testing sons of WPAF 780 Ambush 1107-690, Connealy 044 062, Connealy Confidence 0100, Deppe 628 Upward 008, Connealy Shrek 4242 and Reich 902 Final Answer 214

ON-TEST FOR BLOOMFIELD

Fall bulls at Interim

Lot 54 - ADG: 4.96 • WDA: 3.62
 CE 1 BW 3.9 WW 57 YW 96

Lot 62 - ADG: 3.31 • WDA: 3.52
 CE 1 BW 3.5 WW 72 YW 118

Yearlings at Interim

Lot 67 - ADG: 5.00 • WDA: 3.51
 CE 3 BW 3.4 WW 63 YW 108

Lot 94 - ADG: 5.57 • WDA: 3.90
 CE 5 BW 2.7 WW 57 YW 103

Lot 68 - ADG: 5.00 • WDA: 3.55
 CE 2 BW 3.4 WW 67 YW 113

Lot 95 - ADG: 5.75 • WDA: 3.93
 CE 3 BW 3 WW 67 YW 114

ON-TEST FOR DUNLAP

Lot 103 - ADG: 5.31 • WDA: 3.48
 CE 13 BW -1.1 WW 52 YW 92

Lot 113 - ADG: 5.31 • WDA: 3.70
 CE 2 BW 1.6 WW 66 YW 111

Lot 104 - ADG: 5.44 • WDA: 3.89
 CE 6 BW 2.3 WW 64 YW 111

Lot 114 - ADG: 4.17 • WDA: 3.42
 CE 8 BW 1.4 WW 57 YW 93

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