



Vaccination Vital to Prevent Blackleg and other Clostridial Diseases in Livestock

Several life-threatening livestock diseases are caused by bacteria called *clostridia*. As a responsible animal owner there are many ways to provide the best care for your stock when it comes to clostridial diseases – among them, vaccination is the most important.

***Clostridia*: A sneaky bacteria**

Clostridia are anaerobic spores which means they don't need oxygen to grow. The spores are highly resistant and can survive in the soil for long periods of time.

Meet the clostridial family of organisms

The clostridial family of organisms cause a variety of diseases including these top three clostridial diseases including:

Disease	Results	Signs
Black disease	Damage to the liver	Profoundly depressed and can have abdominal pain. Sudden death is common.
Blackleg	Damage to muscles, such as bruising	May be swelling of leg. The leg may crackle with touch.
Tetanus (lockjaw)	Damage to tissue	Usually muscle stiffness; the disease is called lockjaw because the animal can't open its mouth.

Choosing the right vaccine

The BOVILIS® VISION® line of clostridial vaccines by Merck Animal Health reduces stress of vaccination and minimizes the negative impact on performance, while maintaining efficacy. In field trials, cattle vaccinated with BOVILIS VISION clostridial vaccines showed the following:

- Less post-vaccinal stress, appetite suppression, as well as swelling and inflammation at the injection site¹
- Better cost of gains and feed conversion¹⁻⁵
- Greater weaning weights

Look for the BOVILIS VISION line that offers combination protection against several of the most common clostridial diseases.

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¹Merck Animal Health 1993 Field Trial Report 92-3 Vision 8 Injection Site Blemish Study

²Merck Animal Health 1993 Field Trial Report 93-9 Weaning Weight Comparison of Vision 7 and Ultrabac 7 in a Wyoming Beef Herd

³Merck Animal Health 1993 Field Trial Report 93-14 Vision Weaning Weight Trials (2-4250-93)

⁴Merck Animal Health 1993 Field Trial Report 93-15 Weight Comparison at Weaning in 5 Beef Herds Comparing Vision <2 ml> to 5 ml 7-way Administered at Spring Branding

⁵Merck Animal Health 1996 Field Trial Report 96-5 Weaning Weight Comparison of Calves Vaccinated with Vision® 8 vaccine or a 5ml 8-way Clostridial Vaccine