



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

General Instructions for Contract Veterinarians Vaccinating Calves Against Brucellosis

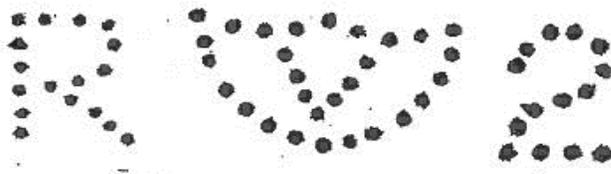
1. **A Contract is Required.** Veterinarians must be accredited and sign a contract with CDFA to vaccinate calves for brucellosis.
2. **Fees:** The owner will pay for brucellosis vaccination services. The practitioner and the owner determine this fee in the same way other fees are established.
3. **Ordering Brucellosis Vaccine:** Accredited Veterinarians with a valid CDFA Animal Health Branch contract may access the on-line system login page with a standard internet connection and browser at <https://apps4.cdfa.ca.gov/brucvacc>. To login, the veterinarian enters their California Veterinary License number, checks the CDFA privacy policy "Agree" box and clicks the Log In button. The system will check the veterinarian contract status and CDFA District affiliation, then a vaccine Order Form with shipping options will appear. The order placement will require entry of a valid credit or debit card number. After order placement, a printable screen with details of the order and payment is available. Expedited "overnight" shipping is only available for orders placed *before 11:00 AM* Pacific Standard Time Monday thru Thursday to allow forwarding the order to the vaccine manufacturer in time to meet the shipping deadline. Orders with Standard shipping placed on Thursday and Friday will be shipped the following week. If a vaccine order arrives with vial breakage in shipment, please contact the local AHB District office. The veterinarian may also request additional ear tags and tattoo ink at the time of the on-line order placement.
4. **Vaccine Delivery:** Notify your District Office if you do not receive your vaccine within five (5) working days. The Department does not pay the vaccine manufacturer until you have received your order. Inform your District Office immediately of any problems with packaging or arrival condition of the vaccine.
5. **Paying for the Vaccine:** Orders are paid with a credit or debit card at the time of order placement. With a simple on-line transaction, Accredited Veterinarians can make an on-line order, pay for the Brucellosis vaccine and have the vaccine delivered to their designated shipping address.

If a veterinarian declines to pay for the Brucellosis vaccine using a credit or debit card, a check may be used. To pay using a check, please contact the main office in Sacramento at (916) 900-5002 for instructions. Be advised – to purchase using a check can take more than two weeks. Shipments cannot be expedited.

6. **Vaccinate Heifers Only:** Only female calves are to be vaccinated under the terms of the contract. State law requires all female dairy cattle to be vaccinated; vaccination of female beef cattle is optional. However, when changing ownership, unvaccinated female beef cattle over 12 months of age can only go to slaughter, either directly or through an approved saleyard or registered feedlot.
7. **Age to Vaccinate:** Vaccinate dairy and beef heifers from four (4) through twelve (12) months of age. It is optimum to vaccinate at five (5) to six (6) months of age.

8. Identify Calves Vaccinated: Tattooing, Re-tattooing and Eartags

- a. **Tattoo:** Each vaccinated calf must be identified by an official tattoo placed in the right ear. The official registered United States Department of Agriculture tattoo device used to identify official vaccinates is a shield surrounding the letter "V." Your District Office will provide you with the tattoo shield. When Strain 19 vaccine was used, the shield was preceded with a letter corresponding to the respective quarter of the year in which the calf was vaccinated: "A" for the first quarter; "B", the second quarter; "C", the third quarter; and "D", the fourth quarter. California was the only state using letters; all other states used 1, 2, 3, and 4 to identify the quarter of the year. When using RB-51 vaccine, an "R" tattoo insert must be used in place of the letter (A, B, C, or D) that was used to designate the quarter of the year for the Strain-19 tattoo. Follow the shield with a number corresponding to the last number of the year. (EXAMPLE: VACCINATED WITH RB-51 IN 2012)



It is VERY important that you produce a readable and lasting tattoo in every calf you vaccinate. Apply the tattoo after thoroughly cleaning and drying the correct area of the ear.

- b. **Re-tattooing:** Contract Veterinarians have a contract with the State to put a LEGIBLE tattoo in the ear of each calf they vaccinate for brucellosis. If the tattoo is illegible, you are authorized to retattoo the cattle that you know you officially vaccinated at an earlier date. When retattooing:
- You must identify all animals that you retattoo, and confirm that you vaccinated the animal.
 - You must complete (in duplicate) AHB Form 76-169 for each animal re-tattooed. The original of the form shall be given to the owner to accompany the animal and the copy shall be submitted immediately to your AHB District Office. Cattle retattooed must be identified by ear tag or other suitable identification to link the individual animal to the form.
 - The tattoo characters used to retattoo a previously vaccinated and tattooed animal should correspond to the period when the vaccination was given. **CURRENT TATTOO CHARACTERS SHOULD NOT BE USED.** For example, a cow vaccinated as a heifer with Strain 19 in April, 1995, should be tattooed "B-shield-5." Cattle vaccinated with RB-51 in 2012 should be tattooed "R-shield-2."
- c. **Eartag:** In addition to the tattoo, all vaccinated calves should bear an official orange eartag attached to the RIGHT EAR. If an owner objects to attaching these tags and the calves are already officially identified, the owner must sign the AHB Form 76-26 "Report of Heifer Calves Vaccinated - Brucellosis" in the space provided for this purpose. In those cases when calves are not tagged, the owner's signature must appear twice on AHB Form 76-26, once for vaccination and once for objecting to ear tags. Encourage owners to have all calves ear tagged; this is particularly important in herds selling replacement heifers.
9. **Disinfect Equipment:** Disinfect the tattoo applicator between calves. Contaminated tattoo devices can spread diseases, including anaplasmosis and warts.
10. **Report Calves Vaccinated within 14 days (CCR sec. 752).** Use AHB Form 76-26, "Report of Heifer Calves Vaccinated - Brucellosis." Each snap-out set consists of three copies. Give the original to the owner, send the pink copy to your AHB District Office, and keep the yellow copy in the book for your records. Your District Office supplies these books, which contain 25 sets of forms each.