

Proper Handling and Administration of Cattle Health Products Part 3

Welcome back to the third and final series on Proper Handling and Administration of Cattle Health Products. If you missed either of the first two articles, you can find them both on our website www.butler.ksu.edu and our K-State Research and Extension/Butler County Facebook page. It's important to remember with injections and implants that you make sure you are doing it correctly. This week we are going to talk about needle size, injection spacing, volume and implants.

Needle Size

Needle size depends on cattle weight and whether you are doing a SubQ (subcutaneous) or IM (intramuscular) injection. It's important to remember for SubQ injections 16 ga-18ga and ½ - ¾" are recommended while for IM injections it's 16ga – 18 ga and 1 – 1 ½" needles.

This chart here provides a breakdown:

Route of Administration									
Injectable Viscosity	SQ (1/2 to 3/4 inch needle)			IV (1 1/2 inch needle)			IM (1 to 1 1/2 inch needle)		
	Cattle Weight			Cattle Weight			Cattle Weight		
	<300	300-700	>700	<300	300-700	>700	<300	300-700	>700
Thin Example: Saline	18 gauge	18-16 gauge	16 gauge	18-16 gauge	16 gauge	16-14 gauge	20-18 gauge	18-16 gauge	18-16 gauge
Thick Example: Oxytetracycline	18-16 gauge	18-16 gauge	16 gauge	16 gauge	16-14 gauge	16-14 gauge	18 gauge	16 gauge	16 gauge
SELECT THE NEEDLE TO FIT THE CATTLE SIZE (THE SMALLEST PRACTICAL SIZE WITHOUT BENDING)									

Spacing & Volume

Injections should be given 4" apart which is comparable to a hands width apart. Make sure you do not space injections on top of each other. They should also be side by side horizontally and not vertically. If stacked vertically, they may still mix together. Be sure and read the label, but make sure not to give any more than 10 mL per site. For example, if the directions call for 18 mL, then divide that into 2 equal injections.

Implants

Giving implants properly is as important as injections. Here is a graphic that breaks it down. It is also important that the needle is disinfected in between each animal. A disinfectant sponge is recommended.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (316) 321-9660 or cmmiller1@ksu.edu.

