

# PREWEANING AND WEANING

Realize the rewards of raising BRD-resilient calves.

Preconditioning is one of the most effective strategies to demonstrate advanced calf health and performance. **BOVILIS® PrimeVAC™** by Merck Animal Health is an example of a value-added program that focuses on respiratory and clostridial vaccinations, as well as protection against internal parasites. It gives a clear guide of the steps needed to help boost the calf's immune system and health status at this stage.

Merck Animal Health, Superior Livestock Auction and Kansas State University have partnered to evaluate the management decisions, programs and health protocols that drive price per pound paid by buyers.<sup>1</sup> The 2023 auction dataset includes information from over 850,000 head of calves, providing a view into what buyers wanted and how they spoke with their checkbook.

Preconditioning programs added significant value. For example, calves vaccinated with two doses of clostridial, two doses of five-way modified live viruses and at least one dose of a *Mannheimia haemolytica* (MH) and/or *Pasteurella multocida* (PM) vaccine, and weaned at home for 45 days before delivery, **added \$44.88 more per head** than those receiving only one dose of each of the three vaccines and not weaned at home.

Why are preconditioned calves worth more? Preconditioning (45-day weaning and balanced nutrition) substantially reduces sickness, death loss and medicine costs. There is also improved performance with better weight gain and feed efficiency.<sup>2</sup>

Building Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) resilience is important to building a reputation for selling calves ready to thrive in the next phase of production. Work with your veterinarian to build a health protocol specific to your herd.



1. Superior Livestock Auction Data 2023.

2. Lalman D., Mourer G. *Effects of Preconditioning on Health, Performance, and Prices of Weaned Calves*. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Fact Sheet AFS-3529, March 2017.

# Protection that pays

## Make the best choices to build the BRD resilience of your calves.

**BOVILIS PrimeVAC** preconditioning programs focus on respiratory and clostridial vaccinations, as well as protection against internal parasites.

**PrimeVAC 45:** For home-raised, single-source, ranch calves vaccinated twice and weaned a minimum of 45 days before delivery.

- Administer the first vaccines before or at weaning
  - Respiratory MLV vaccine (IBR, BVDV 1, 1b & 2, PI3, BRSV) + MH & PM, such as BOVILIS VISTA® Once SQ
  - Clostridial vaccine, such as BOVILIS VISION® 7 SOMNUS
  - Pinkeye vaccine (optional), such as BOVILIS PILIGUARD® PINKEYE
- Revaccinate 3 to 6 weeks later
  - Second dose of respiratory option
  - Second dose of clostridial option
  - Second dose of pinkeye option

## Other recommendations:

- Internal parasite control, such as SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole)
- External parasite control, such as ULTRA BOSS® Pour-On or ULTRA SABER® Pour-On
- Implanting, such as RALGRO® (zeranol implants) or REVALOR®-G (trenbolone acetate and estradiol implants)
- Acclimate calves to the feed bunk and water tank
- Conduct BVD PI testing
- Castrate bulls and dehorn calves, if not done previously
- Uniquely identify and tag calves, if not done previously, such as with ALLFLEX® Ear Tags

## Other options:

**PrimeVAC 24** – Calves are vaccinated once prior to weaning.

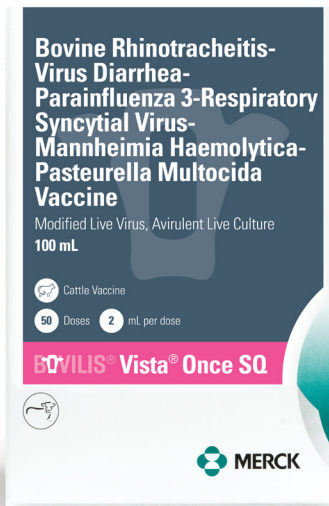
**PrimeVAC 34** – Calves are vaccinated twice. Administer the first vaccines prior to or at weaning. Revaccinate 3 to 6 weeks later.

**PrimeVAC Heifer** for home-raised replacement heifers. Heifers are vaccinated three times:

- Administer first vaccines prior to or at weaning (including respiratory, clostridial and optional pinkeye).
- Administer second vaccination 3 to 6 weeks later (including respiratory, clostridial and optional pinkeye and Brucellosis vaccination).
- Third vaccination 2 to 8 weeks prior to breeding (reproductive vaccination and third dose of clostridial option).

**Your veterinarian or Merck Animal Health sales representative can help you select and certify the best PrimeVAC program and products for your calves. Learn more at MAHCattle.com.**

# Featured vaccines



## RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Only BOVILIS VISTA vaccines offer the most complete dual-action pneumonia protection.

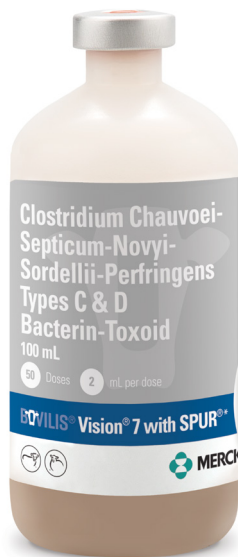
BOVILIS VISTA ONCE SQ is a 5-way MLV vaccine effective against:

- *M. haemolytica*
- *P. multocida*
- IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis)
- BVD Type 1 (Bovine Viral Diarrhea Type 1, including BVD 1b)
- BVD Type 2 (Bovine Viral Diarrhea Type 2)
- PI3 (Parainfluenza-3)
- BRSV (Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus)

BOVILIS VISTA 5 SQ is a 5-way MLV vaccine effective against IBR, BVD Type 1, BVD Type 2, PI3 and BRSV.

## REPRODUCTION PROTECTION FOR REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

BOVILIS VISTA 5 VL5 SQ is a MLV and killed bacterin combo vaccine that is effective against IBR, BVD Type 1, including BVD 1b, BVD Type 2, PI3 and BRSV, plus 5 strains of Leptospirosis, including *L. hardjo-bovis*, and *Campylobacter fetus* (vibriosis).



## CLOSTRIDIAL PROTECTION

BOVILIS VISION 7 is a 7-way clostridial effective against:

- *Clostridium chauvoei* (Blackleg)
- *Clostridium septicum* (Malignant Edema)
- *Clostridium novyi* (Black Disease)
- *Clostridium sordellii*
- *Clostridium perfringens* Types C and D (Enterotoxemia)

BOVILIS VISION 7 SOMNUS is the only 7-way clostridial/somnus combination vaccine.

BOVILIS 20/20 VISION 7 WITH SPUR is a 7-way clostridial and pinkeye (*Moraxella bovis*) combination vaccine.

Ask your veterinarian for other clostridial options, including more BOVILIS VISION, BOVILIS CAVALRY® and BOVILIS COVEXIN® vaccines.

## PINKEYE PROTECTION

BOVILIS PILIGUARD® PINKEYE is effective against *M. bovis* strains expressing pili similar to those expressed by isolates referred to as Strains EPP 63, FLA 64 and SAH 38.





# PrimeVAC™ CERTIFIED

Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Head: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Steer  Heifer  Mixed BQA Certification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The calves listed on this certificate have completed the health requirements for the following Merck Animal Health preconditioning program.

## PROGRAM

- PrimeVAC™ 24  
 PrimeVAC™ 34  
 PrimeVAC™ 45  
 PrimeVAC™ Heifer

## PROTECTION

### Respiratory

- Bovilis® Vista® Once SQ  
 Bovilis® Vista® 5 SQ  
 Bovilis® Vista® BVD CFP  
 Bovilis® Once PMH® IN  
 Bovilis® Once PMH® SQ  
 Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3  
 Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3-PMH

### Blackleg

- Bovilis® Vision® 7  
 Bovilis® Vision® 7 Somnus  
 Bovilis® Vision® 8  
 Bovilis® Vision® 8 Somnus  
 Bovilis® 20/20 Vision®  
 Bovilis® Covexin® 8  
 Bovilis® Cavalry® 9

## RECOMMENDED

### Internal Parasite

- Panacur® (fenbendazole)  
 Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole)

### External Parasite

- Ultra Boss® Pour-On  
 Ultra Saber® Pour-On

### Implants

- Ralgro® (zeranol implants)  
 Revalor®-G (trenbolone acetate and estradiol implants)

### Pinkeye

- Bovilis® Piliguard® Pinkeye  
 Bovilis® 20/20 Vision® 7 with Spur®

### Reproductive

- Bovilis® Vista® BVD CFP SQ  
 Bovilis® Vista® 5 L5  
 Bovilis® Vista® 5 VL5

## Certified by:

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Certified by:

Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This certificate is provided only as a service to the producer, person or entity whose name appears on the face hereof ("Owner/Manager"). All information is derived from data supplied by the Owner/Manager, who is solely responsible for its accuracy and use. Merck Animal Health makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, reliability, usefulness, or legality of any information. Such information is provided "as is," and should be verified by the user before relying upon it for any purpose.



**RALGRO IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children. No withdrawal period is required when used according to labeling. Do not use in beef calves less than 2 months of age, dairy calves, and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in replacement beef heifers after weaning or in dairy cows or replacement dairy heifers. Use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or calves born to these cows. Implant pellets subcutaneously in ear only. Any other location is a violation of Federal law. Do not attempt salvage of implanted site for human or animal food. Not approved for repeated implantation (reimplantation) with this or any other cattle ear implant within a single production phase as safety and effectiveness have not been evaluated. For complete safety information, refer to the product label.

**REVALOR-G IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Not to be used in animals intended for breeding, dairy animals, or veal calves. Implant in ear only. Any other location is in violation of Federal Law. Not approved for repeated implantation (re-implantation) with this or any other cattle ear implant in growing beef steers and heifers on pasture (stocker, feeder, and slaughter). Safety and effectiveness following re-implantation have not been evaluated. Do not salvage implanted site for human or animal food. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Not for use in humans. For complete safety information, refer to the product label.

**SAFE-GUARD IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Do not use in beef calves less than 2 months old, dairy calves and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Additionally, the following meat withdrawal and milk discard times apply:

- SAFE-GUARD Paste:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 8 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 96 hours.
- SAFE-GUARD Suspension:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 8 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 48 hours.
- SAFE-GUARD En-PRO-AL Type C Medicated Block:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 11 days. For use in beef cattle only.
- SAFE-GUARD 20% Protein Type C Medicated Block:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 16 days. For use in beef cattle only.
- SAFE-GUARD Type A and other medicated feed products (pellets, cubes, free-choice mineral or free-choice liquid):** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 13 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 60 hours.