


WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: BEEF CATTLE HANDLING EXPOSURES


WHAT IS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH?


Reproductive health refers to the condition of reproductive systems during all life stages.

BEEF CATTLE HANDLING EXPOSURES

Women handling beef cattle have significant exposure to cattle medications or vaccinations, and certain zoonotic disease that may risk damage to their fertility or their unborn child.

 Many medications can be toxic if swallowed and can damage fertility or harm the fetus of a pregnant person.

 Be aware of the vaccinations that can cause loss of pregnancy or infertility.

 Zoonotic Diseases are transmitted from animals to humans and can be responsible for miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery, or birth defects.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

Use personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever possible:

- Puncture resistant gloves
- Safety glasses
- Clothing and shoes that are regularly cleaned, and worn only while on the job

When giving injectable medications, vaccinations, or anything else requiring a needle to puncture an animal.

- Use a designated prep area and handle all injectables with care
- Clean up spills and wash immediately after contact with skin
- Give one dose at a time, and have a buddy system to help with administering
- Never recap needles, and use proper sharps container for disposal

GET IN TOUCH

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MEDICATION EXPOSURES

NAME (COMMON NAME)	USE	HEALTH EFFECTS	PREVENTION
Tilmicosin (Micotil)	Antibiotic for bacterial respiratory diseases in cattle.	If injected: can cause restricted blood supply and heart failure.	Use puncture resistant gloves, a designated prep area, buddy system to administer, give one dose at a time, handle with care, and clean up spills. If an injection occurs, seek immediate medical attention.
Ivermectin	Used for internal and external parasite control in cattle.	Toxic if consumed.	Use gloves when handling, wash immediately after contact with skin, and keep away from food, drink, and animal feed.
Bactracillin G Benzathine	Antibiotic for "shipping fever complex", upper respiratory infections, and/or Blackleg.	Suspected of causing genetic defects.	Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, and eye protection. Avoid breathing vapors, mist, or spray. Wash hands, forearms, and other exposed areas thoroughly after handling.

VACCINATION EXPOSURES

Brucellosis (Bangs Disease)	To prevent Brucellosis (Bangs), a contagious reproductive disease in cattle.	Can cause miscarriage or infertility.	Use puncture resistant gloves, a designated prep area, buddy system to administer, give one dose at a time, handle with care, and clean up spills
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ZOOBOTIC EXPOSURES

Anthrax	Direct contact with infected cattle, body parts, or cattle feeds. Inhalation of spores from hair or hide from infected cattle. Eating improperly cooked meat from infected cattle.	Skin injury usually on hands or arms is most common. Breathing problems and shock can occur, but are less common and much more severe.	Personal protection when handling potentially infected cattle or tissues.
Brucellosis (Bangs Disease)	Direct contact with infected cattle or their tissues, especially placenta and abortion products.	Long lasting flu-like illness, spiking fevers, muscle pain, and discomfort.	Personal protection when handling potentially infected cattle, especially following abortion. Sanitize animal environment.
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	Direct or indirect contact with infected cattle and waste. Accidental ingestion from hand-to-mouth contact or ingestion of contaminated food or water.	Mainly vomiting and diarrhea. Inflammation of the bladder. With cattle strain, possible kidney failure.	Excellent personal and environmental sanitation
Leptospirosis (Weil's disease, swamp fever, mud fever)	Direct contact with urine from infected cattle. Contact with blood or abortion products of infected cattle. Contact with water contaminated with urine from infected cattle.	Flu-like illness with fever of ranging severity. Mild cases: muscle pain, discomfort, vomiting Severe cases: Reduced Kidney function, jaundice	Personal protection when handling infected cattle or tissues. Good environmental sanitation, immunization, and proper veterinary care.
Q Fever, Rickettsia (query fever)	Direct contact with infected animals, particularly placenta and its fluids. Inhaling organisms through dust.	Generalized fever with lung inflammation. Possible abortion. Possible inflammation of inner lining of the heart.	Personal protection when handling potentially infected cattle,. Respiratory protection when working in a dusty environment.
Rabies	Direct contact through a bite wound or contamination of already existing wound with saliva.	Brain inflammation with personality changes and hyperactivity resulting in respiratory failure, and death.	Vaccination of pets and livestock. Pre-exposure vaccination of people at high risk.