



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 licensed in CA 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, 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 (required time allowance to meet vaccine manufacturer shipping deadline). Orders with standard shipping placed *after 11:00 AM* on Wednesday or anytime on Thursday and Friday will be shipped the following week. If a vaccine order arrives with vial breakage in the shipment, please contact the local AHB District office. You may also request additional ear tags, tattoo ink and other vaccinating supplies 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 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.
7. **Age to Vaccinate:** Vaccinate dairy and beef heifers from four through 12 months of age. It is optimum to vaccinate at five to six 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 using RB-51 vaccine, an "R" tattoo insert must be used, followed by the shield and a number corresponding to the last number of the year.
(EXAMPLE BELOW: VACCINATED WITH RB-51 IN 2022)



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. ALWAYS disinfect the tattoo applicator between calves. Contaminated tattoo devices can spread diseases.

- 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(s) 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 YEAR TATTOO CHARACTERS SHOULD NOT BE USED. For example, cattle vaccinated with RB-51 in 2011 should be tattooed "R-shield-1."
- c. **Eartag:** In addition to the tattoo, all vaccinated calves shall bear an official permanent brucellosis metal vaccination eartag in the right ear, **OR** a brucellosis RFID tag in the left ear, **OR** existing official ID. The vaccinating veterinarian is required to record the tag numbers applied **OR** the existing individual official ID numbers. If 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 at time of vaccination, the owner's signature must appear twice on AHB Form 76-26, once for vaccination and once for declining the brucellosis ear tags.
9. **Report Calves Vaccinated within 14 days to your District Office (CCR sec. 752):** Use AHB Form 76-26, "Report of Heifer Calves Vaccinated - Brucellosis." Your District Office supplies these books, which contain 25 sets of forms per book. Each snap-out set consists of three copies. Give the original to the owner, send the pink copy to your District Office, and keep the yellow copy in the book for your records to maintain for five years. Electronic MIM forms and pink slips may be submitted with the electronic ID numbers. Electronic ID tags must be submitted in a data format, such as CSV or Excel files and should be emailed to evet@cdfa.ca.gov with correlating vaccine certificate number.