

FAQs

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES

The immunization schedules, which follow, are merely a suggested outline that may be adapted to your farming situation.

Various factors are responsible for the spreading of disease. Certain diseases only occur in specific geographic or climatic areas or under particular management practices with specific groups of animals. There is no necessity to vaccinate against diseases which do not occur in the area. When deciding to vaccinate for a disease numerous factors should be taken into account.

1. What is the risk of infection to the herd should they not be vaccinated?
2. What are the potential economic losses associated with the disease in unvaccinated animals?
3. What risk factors are present in the herd or will play a role in the future? It is recommended that animals be vaccinated before high-risk procedures (e.g. quarter-evil before shearing) or high-risk conditions (e.g. botulism before feeding chicken manure).
4. Can the disease be controlled without vaccinating?
5. What information is available with regard to vaccine against the disease?
 - Type of vaccine available eg live or dead. Is there any potential danger when using the vaccine (eg. Rift Valley fever which could cause abortion in pregnant animals)?
 - Efficacy of the vaccine and successful use in the past.
 - Can the vaccine combat clinical disease as well as infection?
 - Does the presence of colostrum immunity have an effect on the vaccine?
 - What is the duration of immunity provided by the vaccine?
 - What is the result of a crude cost- benefit analysis based on the expected economic losses. associated with morbidity and mortality in the vaccinated and nonvaccinated groups?
6. Type of farming and management practices applied.

7. Vaccination will have to be modified to fit in with the management practices such as lambing season, shearing season, weaning season, etc.

It is, therefore, clear that a unique vaccination schedule must be determined for each farm or herd. The local practising veterinarian is the person most suited to consult as he/she has an in-depth knowledge and experience of local conditions.