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Foothill Abortion Vaccine Available

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The foothill abortion vaccine developed by Dr. Jeff Stott's lab at UC Veterinary Medicine is now available commercially for purchase. Cattle should be healthy, at least six months of age and vaccinated at least 60 days prior to breeding. If cattle are bred sooner than 60 days post vaccination, they will conceive but abortions are likely to occur at 3-4 months gestation. There is a 90-day slaughter withdrawal after vaccination.

Hygieia Biological Laboratories in Woodland is both producing and distributing the vaccine. Obtaining the vaccine requires coordination so preparing at least three weeks in advance is necessary. Cost of the vaccine is roughly \$800/30 dose vial (\$27/dose) and must be purchased in 30 dose increments. Previous testing has shown the vaccine to be over 98% effective. Immunity is expected to last a minimum of three years in the absence of natural exposure. Thus, natural infection might need to occur during that 3-4 year period for prolonged immunity.

The process requires a three way coordination between the producer, a local veterinarian, and Hygieia. This is a live vaccine that must be kept in liquid nitrogen and thawed correctly to be effective; the vaccine can only be received by a licensed DVM and must be administered by your veterinarian. So the first step is setting up an appointment with your vet to ensure they have the appropriate liquid nitrogen storage and transport capacity (the vaccine must be transported to your ranch in liquid nitrogen) to receive the vaccine. Following confirmation, the producer calls Hygieia to order the vaccine, who then coordinates with your veterinarian to deliver the vaccine to their local clinic the day before cattle are vaccinated. Note the coordination of three different schedules is necessary so flexibility in these early stages is important.

A number of veterinarians have already been trained in how to properly handle and give the vaccine. This training is essential for them to be able to take delivery and administer the vaccine effectively. It may take some extra time before all veterinarians have been individually trained, so patience and early preparation are necessary.

To order the vaccine call Hygieia Biological Laboratories toll free at 1-888-494-4342 or direct at 530-661-1442.

For question regarding the vaccine email Jenna Chandler, Hygieia Biological Laboratories EBA Product Manager—jenna@hygieialabs.com

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