

# BK Whitetails Vaccinations Protocol

The information contained below has been gathered/transcribed from several vaccine manufacturers, known ruminant veterinarians and the Merck Veterinary Manual. You should always consult your veterinarian.

## **Preweaning Vaccines**

1. Fawns need protection against Cl. perfringens C and D because of feed changes and introduction to concentrates 2. Fawns need a series of 2 injections given approximately 2 to 4 weeks apart. 3. Fawns receive the first vaccine 2 weeks prior to weaning and the second vaccine, booster, at the time of weaning or shortly afterwards. 4. The combination Cl. perfringens C and D and tetani vaccine is used.

I use an 8 way vaccine- 5ml initial dose and a 2ml dose booster.

Young animal vaccination does not yield adequate levels of protective immunity until at least 2 months of age. Therefore most vaccination strategies target the pregnant doe so that maximal immunity is transferred to the neonate in colostrums.

## **Prepartum Vaccines Doe's**

1) Does should be vaccinated 3 to 4 weeks prior to the time of parturition in order to provide colostrum immunity to the neonates. a) Clostridium perfringens type C and D - Vaccine will cross protect against Cl. perfringens type B - Vaccine prevents hemorrhagic enteritis and overeating disease b) Clostridium tetani  
- protects neonates from tetanus. Note: the Cl. perfringens C and D and tetanus come in a combination vaccine c) Parainfluenza 3 - protects against parainfluenza 3, a viral disease that predisposes neonate to pneumonia - The product contains both PI3 and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis Virus - The product is given intranasally, 1/2 of the cattle dose – 1 ml in one nostril - reduces the shedding of PI3 and provides good colostrum immunity to neonates.

I use an 8 way vaccine- 5ml initial dose and a 2ml dose booster.

## **Other Vaccines**

8 way vaccine- 2ml booster to entire herd annually, unless greater exposure then every 6 months

EHDV/BTV- entire age eligible herd, consult Newport Laboratories

## Vaccine Application Tips for Small Ruminants

Now we've learned a little bit about vaccine, let's look at how to apply it and discuss some other vaccination tips:

1. When using a vaccine first thing you should do is read the instructions very carefully, different vaccines may require different application method.
2. Keep vaccines stored away in a container and keep them out of the reach of children. Ideally, this container should be refrigerated.
3. If a vaccine ever freezes it will render it useless, throw it away.
4. If you have to mix the vaccine, make sure to do it a short time before the application. They will settle and can separate if left – don't leave them a long time before administration.
5. Generally, most vaccines are injected under the skin on the side of the neck unless otherwise instructed. Vaccine injections of this type are called subcutaneous injection, and similar application to that of injectable [wormers](#), some scalp treatments, and calcium and magnesium injections.
6. Make sure you are using a needle up to the job for injecting your deer, a half-inch or three-quarters-inch needle are the most common used for deer. If in doubt consult your vet, tell them the age-group of small ruminant you are planning to work with.
7. Do not stick dirty or used needles into the vaccine bottle when you are withdrawing the vaccine. You should always use a clean needle to withdraw the vaccine out of the bottle to avoid contamination.
8. Always use sterile syringes and needles. You can re-sterilize syringes by boiling them to around 30 minutes. If you are treating many animals, use an automatic syringe that has an attachment that sterilizes the needle between each application.
9. You should never vaccinate unhealthy deer. Also do not wipe the injection area with a disinfectant, this can reduce the effectiveness of

- the vaccine. If the animal is dry, the injection area is clean, and you are using sterilized needles you should be okay.
10. Avoid giving your deer other medicines at the same time as vaccinating, especially if you are dealing with heavily pregnant doe's. The only exception to this would be if a vet has instructed you to do so.
  11. Handle your deer carefully when applying the vaccine, try to minimize any stress caused though handling. It's often best to vaccinate in small groups and in an area where your animals cannot run and move around much; in a holding pen or a yard. This is especially important when dealing with pregnant animals. The added stress can potentially cause a metabolic response or an abortion.
  12. Only certain vaccinations immunities can be passed from mother to offspring. This is called passive immunity or maternally derived, and it is passed via the mother colostrum. If you are trying to achieve this, make sure you check if it's possible with the vaccines type you are using.
  13. Once you have finished with the vaccine, discard it. There's always a chance that partially used vaccine could become contaminated when used. Contaminated vaccines should be regarded as useless and dangerous.
  14. Always observe the withdrawal period of vaccines. It's also a good idea to avoid administering any vaccines two weeks before fawning as the vaccine may not work properly, and the excess stress might cause an abortion or a metabolic disorder.
  15. Always follow the instructions given with the vaccine. One major cause of vaccine or immunization failure is when the instructions have been ignored. For example, deer farmers have thought they could get away with giving one injection instead of two, or using old contaminated vaccines.
  16. It's often the best practice to vaccinate the whole of your herd and not just individual animals.
  17. Certain vaccines should not be handled by certain groups of people as they pose a risk. Pregnant women, people undergoing

chemotherapy, immunodeficient individuals, or those taking immunosuppressant drugs should avoid handling vaccines. If in doubt about this speak with your local doctor.

18. Vaccinations work best when combined with [good herd husbandry](#).

Taking good care of your herd via other methods can also help reduce the chances of a disease outbreak or livestock losses. It's a fact that animals with a poor diet, selenium deficiencies, or kept in poor conditions, will be more susceptible to an outbreak of disease.

19. You will find some deer producers that don't vaccinate their herds, they may negate the risks of disease outbreak by more intensively managing their herds – namely, using reduced stocking densities, reliance on more rotations of pens, and so on.
20. Also, the cost of vaccination program has to be considered by the farmer. If the cost of the vaccination is going to exceed expected losses in a herd, then it's not going to save you money.

**Vaccinations are not a silver bullet when dealing with ruminant diseases. Infections can still breakout on farms that have been vaccinated against threats; however vaccinated herds generally will suffer far fewer losses than other non-vaccinated farms.**

**As you can see there is no clearly defined method, or a one size fits all for a deer farmer to follow. You need to look at your land, your methods of livestock control, and find what are the widespread threats in your area. I highly recommend that you speak with your vet and get consultation to suit your particular farm and its situation.**

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