

Calves and Bicycle Wheels

[Part 5 of a six-part series]

In a short provocative article Ryan Leiterman and Lorrie Meister (Crystal Creek Natural) make the case for considering every aspect of calf care (the spokes in the bicycle wheel) to optimize calf health and growth. A perfectly round wheel depends on all spokes being strong. When one or more of six key spokes become weak the chances of delivering well-grown, healthy calves goes down.

Let's look at spoke Number 5 – Vaccination

The authors recommend evaluating the strength of this spoke by:

- Creating and annually reviewing a vaccination protocol specific to your farm.
- Using vaccines of proven efficacy.
- Adhering to your vaccination protocol.

If you are not using these three approaches to achieve immunity among your calves your risk of having a “weak” spoke may be high.

I recommend:

- Tips for vaccine effectiveness during times of heat stress – see this resource [HERE](#) or use this URL to go there:
<http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/VaccCalfInHotWeatherR1942.pdf>
- For a resource on building calf immunity including vaccination – Click [HERE](#) or use this URL:
<http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/HealthyCalvesIncrResPathR1955.pdf>
- Finally, just skim this list of why vaccines fail to see if you are guilty of one or more of these failings. Click [HERE](#) or use this URL for the list:
http://atticacows.com/library/newsletters/8ReasonsvacfailR1903_1.pdf

Reference: “Calves and bicycle wheels: A systematic approach to troubleshooting pre-weaned calves” by Ryan Leiterman and Lorrie Meister. Click [HERE](#) to go to the article or use this URL <https://crystalcreeknatural.com/comparing-calves-to-bicycle-wheels-a-systematic-approach-to-troubleshooting-pre-weaned-calves/#more-8192>.