

ADVANTAGES OF ECF IMMUNISATION:

- Animals gain resistance to ECF,
- ECF disease occurrence and consequent treatment is reduced,
- Allows reduction in acaricide use of more than 50% enough to control ticks causing other important tick-borne diseases eg. Heartwater, Anaplasma and Babesia,
- Reduction in acaricide use allows the ECF tick to boost the induced immunity naturally for good,
- Increased cash saving out of reduced tick control treatments and labour requirements,
- The farmer builds confidence on being assured of survival of quality animals
- Environment pollution is greatly reduced by less chemical application,
- The farmer immunizes his/her animal only once in its lifetime requiring only 16,000 –20,000 UGShs covering vaccination, treatment and monitoring.

CONCLUSION

The above information is meant to assist the farmer to make an informed decision to immunize his/her animals for increased production and income.

Caution:

Immunization does not replace tick control and treatment but greatly reduces their requirements

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Your District Veterinary Officer, Or

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COST EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF EAST COAST FEVER



March 2003

Introduction

There are many cattle diseases transmitted by ticks. East Coast Fever (ECF) is the most important. The conventional control measures have proved expensive, ineffective, and unsustainable. Research has of recent come up with an Infection and Treatment Immunization method (ITM) using Muguga Cocktail Vaccine which improves the effectiveness of the earlier control strategies.

What is East Coast Fever (ECF)

East Coast Fever is a deadly cattle disease characterized by high persistent fever, swollen lymph glands especially below the ear and on the shoulder. It is transmitted by the brown ear tick. Death is most common in exotics and cross-breeds, including all calves, this results from froth that blocks the respiratory system leading to suffocation.



The Control Methods include;

- Movement restrictions,
- Killing of ticks by applying acaricides,
- Treating ECF infected animals,
- Immunisation by infection and treatment method.

Any one method does not stop ticks from getting onto the animal. All are expensive and difficult to manage and maintain. Even so acaricides are prone to possible adulteration. Drugs require accurate dosing and timing. On the other hand the vaccine is live and contains the very organism that causes the disease, but this is able to switch on a self defence mechanism against ECF. All methods can therefore complement each other



THE VACCINATION METHOD

Target cattle for immunisation include;

- Exotic and cross-breeds of 2-12 months
- Indeginous calves,

Exceptions are;

- Calves below four weeks old,
- The sick and malnourished
- The heavily pregnant

A vaccination on about 1000 farms in 27 Districts of Uganda involving over 20000 high-grade cattle produced satisfactory results.

The vaccine safety has been boosted by:

- Immunisation of healthy, well-fed animals
- Use of 30% long acting injectable Oxyletracycline,
- Expert veterinary application monitoring and treatment,
- Farmers' participation in taking and recording temperature for 28 days following immunization,
- Being ready to timely intervene on potential adverse effects.

