

## Comparison of post-vaccination performance in weaning age calves when vaccinated with Express® 5 vs Bovi-Shield® Gold MLV vaccines.

### Key Point

- Post-vaccination stress may be measured by performance parameters.
- Getting calves started gaining weight soon after weaning improves weight gain and value.
- Calves vaccinated with **Express® 5** MLV vaccine had significantly better average daily gain (ADG) for the first 2 days and through 3 weeks following vaccination than calves vaccinated with Bovi-Shield® Gold MLV vaccine.

### Study Design

Study Animals: 64 newly weaned local calves from 4 sources were delivered to the test facility and allowed to stand for one day as one group. The following day the calves were hauled by livestock trailer a short distance and then returned to the test facility to simulate normal sale commingling, handling and transportation.

The calves were balanced by sex and then randomly assigned to one of three groups. Group 1 was comprised of 14 steers and 15 heifers and received **Express 5** MLV vaccine per label. Group 2 was comprised of 13 steers and 15 heifers and received Bovi-Shield Gold per label. A third group of 4 steers and 3 heifers served as non-vaccinated controls. All 64 head were run in one pen.

All animals were individually identified and weighed prior to vaccination. Additional weights were recorded 2 days after vaccination and again 21 days after vaccination.

### Results

Days	ADG (lb./day)		
	Express 5	Bovi-Shield Gold	Controls
0 – 2	8.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>b,c</sup>	8.6 <sup>d</sup>
0 – 21	3.7 <sup>e</sup>	3.0 <sup>f</sup>	3.3

a vs b:  $p \leq 0.007$

c vs d:  $p \leq 0.076$

e vs f:  $p \leq 0.013$

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## The Bottom Line

- For two days immediately following weaning and vaccination, calves receiving **Express 5**<sup>®</sup> had significantly ( $p \leq 0.007$ ) better ADG than calves receiving Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> Gold.
- Calves vaccinated with Bovi-Shield Gold had reduced gain immediately post-vaccination compared to the non-vaccinated controls ( $p \leq 0.076$ ).
- The increased ADG of **Express 5** vaccinated calves compared to Bovi-Shield Gold vaccinated calves continued through 21 days post weaning and vaccination ( $p \leq 0.013$ ).
- Over the period of 21 days the **Express 5** vaccinated calves gained an additional 14.7 pounds when compared to the Bovi-Shield Gold vaccinated calves.