

mRNA Livestock Vaccines

ISSUE:

As the issue of vaccinations continues to be a topic of conversation and heated debate throughout the country, agriculture is now facing similar discussions in other states and in South Dakota. Bills have been introduced in other states to ban the use of mRNA vaccines in livestock. These vaccines are created with the same technology used in the COVID-19 vaccination.

OVERVIEW:

The conversations stem from vaccine technology that is in use in pork production and is being researched for other forms of livestock as well, though no such vaccine is approved for use in beef cattle. Misinformation on the use of mRNA vaccines in livestock have filtered through social media and other sources allowing proponents of the legislation to speculate that such vaccinations are a way to indirectly vaccinate the populace through the food supply. The consensus from many veterinarians and those in the research community is that the use of or continued research of mRNA vaccines in livestock is needed for faster response to new disease and that no evidence of harm to or effect on the consumer has been shown.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Farm Bureau has long supported veterinary care, including approval of vaccines for livestock, based on sound science practices and approval of the Food and Drug Administration.
2. Other state Farm Bureaus have developed policies on this topic and have opposed legislation that would ban the use of the vaccine in livestock, stating that support for veterinary independence and research is key in all livestock vaccinations.
3. It is not outside the realm of possibility to see legislation having to do with livestock mRNA vaccines introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session.

SDFB POLICY:**We Support:**

Strengthening the SD Animal Industry Board's ability to deal with animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues.

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

4. Should the SDFB take a stance on mRNA vaccines supporting either the limiting, expansion, or research of their use?