

Top Ten Achievements in Cattle Health

A group of leading bovine veterinarians recently compiled a list of the top ten achievements in beef animal health in the past decade to match up with the Center for Disease Control's June release of worldwide public health accomplishments in human health. I thought you might find it interesting so I simplified and shortened the explanations.

- ▣ Diagnostic tests for Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus and anaplasmosis. The increased availability of molecular diagnostic tools allows more immediate diagnosis more accurate and timely medical treatments.
- ▣ Immunology advances/ and understanding of immunity systems in young calves. Programs such as the Sandhills Calving System utilizing age segregation to eliminate calf scours in beef cattle has made a big economic and disease incidence difference.
- ▣ Improved estrus synchronization and improvements in reproductive programs in beef and dairy cattle. Combined they allow shorter calving seasons, increased genetic improvement and improved health of both cows and calves.
- ▣ New vaccines which reduce Salmonella and E. coli 0157- H 7 for both the animal health and reduced risk of human effects after harvest.
- ▣ High-tech milking systems that integrate sensors and other measurements are being used to assist in identification of abnormal milk and mastitis.
- ▣ Nutrition advances in rations for close-up dairy cows has markedly decreased the incidence of fresh cow metabolic problems. Ionophores in diets to help feed efficiency and reduce coccidiosis.
- ▣ Veterinarians use of digital cameras, videos and other methods to consult with clients, diagnostic labs and each other.
- ▣ The generation and widespread adoption of animal welfare initiatives have changed the way we grow handle and ship cattle. Improved heat abatement procedures on dairies and feedlot operations and advances in dairy cow comfort through better facility design and improved management have become widespread.
- ▣ Sequencing the bovine genome and the commercial availability of genomics testing is changing reproductive programs as well as improving disease risk analysis.
- ▣ Vastly improved foreign and endemic animal disease surveillance and the near eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis.

The Centers for Disease Control published a report titled "Ten Great Public Health Achievements Worldwide, 2001-2010" in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 2011. The report noted that during the previous century, great progress was made in raising life expectancy and reducing mortality among infants and young children through improvements in living conditions and activities to combat major infectious causes of death. The 10 achievements it listed are:

- ▣ Reduction in child mortality;
- ▣ Vaccine preventable diseases;
- ▣ Access to safe water and sanitation;
- ▣ Malaria prevention and control;
- ▣ Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS
- ▣ Tuberculosis control;
- ▣ Control of neglected tropical diseases;
- ▣ Tobacco control;
- ▣ Improving global road safety;
- ▣ Improved preparedness and response to global health threats

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