

Using single-use hypodermic needles on a dairy farm (in 60 seconds)

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Background

- Re-using hypodermic needles for cattle is a documented method of transmitting bovine leukemia virus (BLV) and other diseases such as anaplasmosis.
- The price of syringes (with attached needles) has fallen dramatically in the past decades.
- Using single-use needles for all injections is an important part of any BLV control program.
- More information about controlling BLV can be found at WWW.BLVUSA.com

Step one – prepare needles and syringes for use

- Assemble the single-use syringes in a work space that is comfortable. It's much easier to do this in your farm office for a batch of syringes rather than doing it “one by one” standing out in the barn.

- Open and discard the paper wrappers.
- Give the needles an extra twist to tighten them.
- Fill the syringes with the proper amount of the vaccine or therapy that you wish to inject.



Step two – go to the barn

- Have a container for the full syringes and a different container for the empty syringes.
- If using a carpenter's apron (as shown here), use one side for “full” syringes and the other side for “empties”.



Proper disposal

- Don't forget to dispose of the empty needles and syringes in a "Sharps" container.

