

Extension

Best Practices for Calf Blood Collection

With Assistance: Without Assistance:

*Please note, the photos shown are from a right-hand dominate perspective.





Step 1: Properly restrain the calf.





Step 2: Locate the jugular vein with the dominant hand. With the non-dominant hand gently press against the vein in the lower part of the neck to slow blood flow and continue until completion of blood draw.

Step 3: Once the jugular vein is slightly enlarged due to slowed blood flow, gently insert the collection needle parallel with the jugular vein.





Step 4: Insert the vacuum blood tube into the needle holder.







Step 5: If you have proper needle placement into the jugular vein, blood will flow into the vacuum blood tube.

Step 6: Remove needle, vacutainer and blood tube. Apply pressure at point of needle entry. Identify blood sample and store it properly.

Originally developed by UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd & Fond du Lac County Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman for the Nestlé Dairy Farming Institute Curriculum and adapted for UW-Extension Dairy Team Heifer Blueprints. Photo credits: Shawano County Agriculture Agent Jamie Patton. © 2017, Board of Regents of Wisconsin System, doing business as the Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Updated 2023.

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