

Injection Quick Tips

- Do not use chemical disinfectants in syringes while using a modified live virus vaccine (you could damage the vaccine)
- Provide proper animal restraint to avoid bending and breaking of needles in animal tissue.
- During bad weather, take extra care to ensure that the injection site is free of moisture, manure, and/or dirt.
- Overall sanitation of equipment, working area, and personnel will reduce injection-site defects.
- ALWAYS AVOID the rear leg and loin areas when giving injections. These regions contain high priced cuts of meat. Use the neck region, in front of the point of the shoulder, for injections.
- Administer medicines subcutaneous rather than intramuscularly, if at all possible. Subcutaneous injections cause less damage to meat.
- Use the smallest gauge needle as possible. This creates a smaller opening in the skin, reducing the chance for dirt or manure to enter and cause abscesses.
- Make sure all equipment is clean and dry. Wash syringes in soapy water after each use. Rinse thoroughly – some medicines can be rendered inactive by disinfectants. If the syringe can't be cleaned – discard it!
- Purchase high-quality needles. Needles should be clean and sharp. Do not use a needle if is bent, dull, or dirty. Store in a clean, dry, dust-free place.
- Always use a clean needle when pulling medicine from a bottle. It works best to keep a clean needle in the bottle, and use a different needle to inject the animal.
- Do not exceed 10cc per injection site.

Following the following guidelines for needle sizes (numbers represent gauge):

Species	Age	Subcutaneous ½ to ¾ inch needles		Intramuscular 1 to 1 ½ inch needles	
		Thin liquid	Thick liquid	Thin liquid	Thick liquid
Swine	Growing	20	18	20	18
Swine	Finishing or mature	18	18	18	18
Sheep/Goats	Growing	18	18-16	18-16	18-16
Sheep/Goats	Finishing or mature	18	18-16	18-16	18-16
Cattle	Growing	18	18-16	18-16	18-16
Cattle	Finishing or mature	16	16	16-14	16-14
Small animals	All ages	20-22	20-22	20-22	20-22