



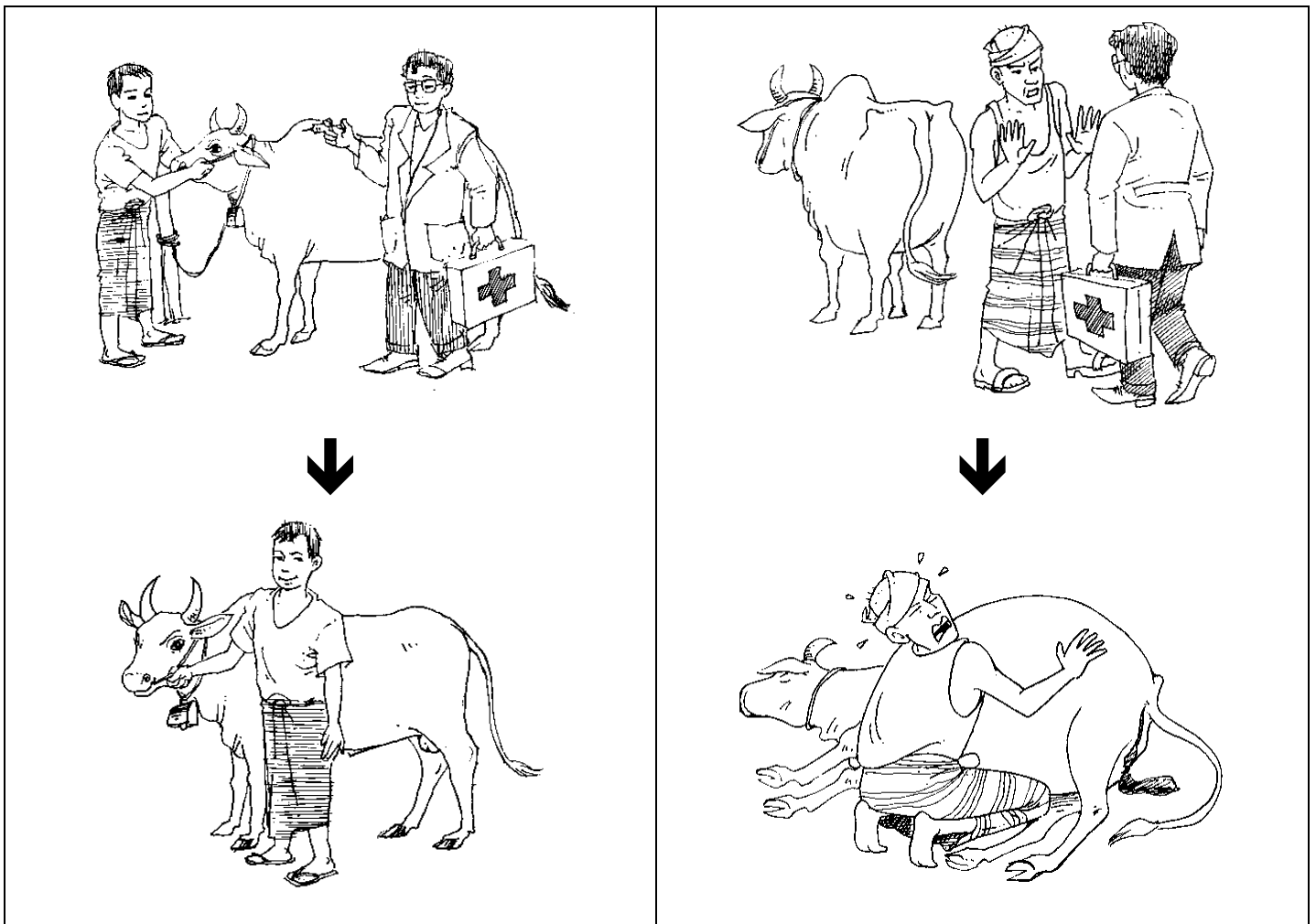
Vaccinating cattle against disease

Why vaccinate?

Vaccinating cattle makes them immune from several serious diseases, such as anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease and blackquarter. These diseases can:

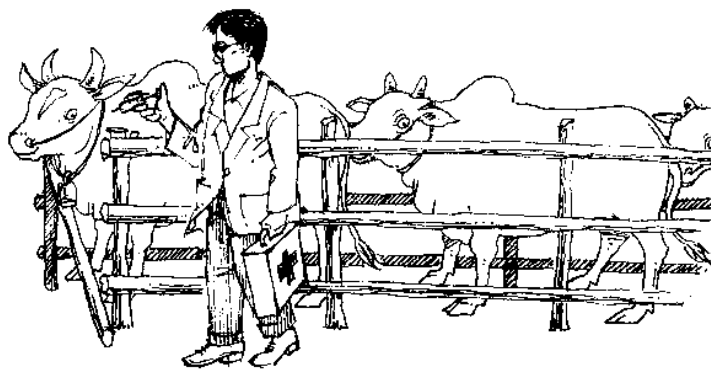
- Make the cattle weak and ill.
- Reduce the animal's appetite, making them grow slowly.
- Make females infertile or produce little milk.
- Some diseases can kill the animal.

Some farmers do not like to vaccinate their animals because of the cost and trouble. However, the benefits of vaccination (healthy, productive cattle) far outweigh the costs.



Requirements

Vaccines (provided by the veterinarian), labour, a "crush" to restrain the cattle while they are being vaccinated.



Procedure

1. Build a crush at a convenient place in the village. Because the crush can be used by all the villagers, the village committee or a farmers' group may be interested in building it. A crush consists of two strong wooden fences, placed about 4 feet apart, between which the cattle can be herded one by one.
2. Arrange for a veterinarian to come to the village on a certain day and time to vaccinate the cattle.
3. Organize all the farmers who are interested to bring their cattle at the agreed time. It is best if all the farmers in the group can vaccinate their animals at the same time.
4. On day of vaccination, the veterinarian will bring the vaccine. It is important to keep the vaccine cool so it will work. Get some ice and put it in some straw to keep the vaccine cool.
5. Herd the cattle to a collection place near one end of the crush.
6. Drive the cattle slowly, one by one, through the crush. The veterinarian will vaccinate each animal as it walks through the crush.
7. Mark on a calendar the date the cattle were vaccinated, and the type of vaccine given.
8. If you are vaccinating against anthrax, the cattle may develop a fever afterwards. Allow them to rest for 2–3 days after vaccination. For vaccines against other diseases, no special precautions are needed.
9. Vaccinate the animals again after 6 months or one year, depending on the vaccine (see table below).

When best to vaccinate

Diseases often occur when the weather changes from one season to another. Try to vaccinate your animals before the start of raining season, at the end of rainy season — or if there is an outbreak of disease nearby.

You should not vaccinate animals with more than one vaccine at the same time. Wait at least one week before giving a different vaccine.

Vaccination schedules

Name of vaccine	Age of cattle to be vaccinated	Administration	Dosage	Revaccination	Packaging
Blackquarter	6 months or older	Under the skin	3 ml	Every 6 months	100 ml
Anthrax	6 months or older	Under the skin	1 ml	Every year	100 ml
Foot-and-mouth disease	1–4 months (calves)	Under the skin	2 ml	Once	
	Four months or older	Under the skin	5 ml	Every 6 months	100 ml
Haemorrhagic septicaemia (live vaccine)	6 months or older	Sprayed into the nose	1 ml	Every year	50 doses
(alum precipitated)	6 months or older	Under the skin or in the muscle	2.5 ml	Every 6 months	100 ml