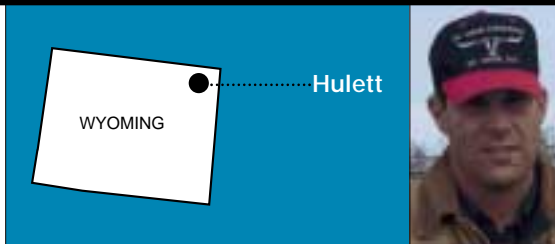


Sky-high pregnancy rates in Big Sky Country

Jim Schlosser,
Schlosser
Angus,
Hulett, WY



Hot, dry weather challenges even the best of managers, but Jim Schlosser has kept his herd's reproductive performance remarkably high through three straight years of drought. The cattleman credits Vira Shield® with protecting cows against multiple disease challenges, helping them to achieve pregnancy rates of 96 to 97 percent under severely dry conditions.

- **Keeping BVD at bay** – With 600 to 700 purebred Angus cows ranging over 26,000 acres in northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana, Schlosser first became concerned about potential BVD exposure about 10 years ago. As a precaution, he started vaccinating with another company's modified live vaccine. Over the next seven or eight years, he watched pregnancy rates drop from a consistent 97 to 98 percent, down to the 90 to 92 percent range. Finally Schlosser had enough and decided to try Vira Shield three years ago, based on his experience using the vaccine successfully in calves.
- **Immediate response** – Schlosser saw an immediate 5 to 6 percent improvement in re-breeding success after switching to Vira Shield. Since then, pregnancy rates have continued to improve despite dry conditions.
- **Major disease defense** – Vaccination with Vira Shield 5+VL5 at pre-breeding protects cows against major viral diseases, including BVD Types 1 and 2, IBR, BRSV and PI₃, plus leptospirosis and vibriosis. Yearling heifers get two shots, one 6 to 8 weeks prior to breeding and a booster 2 to 3 weeks before bulls are turned out.
- **Weaned calf protection** – To prepare calves for the stress of weaning, Schlosser gives Vira Shield 5+Somnus one month prior to weaning. Calves also get a booster at weaning. With virtually no death loss, "we've had incredible luck with Vira Shield in our calves," he says.

“We've never had problems with BVD on our place, but there is a lot of BVD in the area. Fences won't keep out viruses. That's why we started vaccinating our cows with Vira Shield.”

“Before using Vira Shield on our calves, it seemed like we'd be doctoring them until Christmas. Now after weaning, we put the calves in the pen, give them feed and water, and they just take off.”

“People who have purchased calves from us have noticed the same results and now many of them are using Vira Shield, too.”

