

Winter Bedding

A Smart Investment for Feedlot Success

By: Dr. Brian Dorcey



1 First and Foremost

Winter bedding enhances animal welfare and comfort. Beef cattle, especially those in finishing stages, expend significant energy maintaining body temperature in cold weather. By providing a dry, insulated layer—such as straw, corn stalks, or even wood shavings—bedding creates a barrier against the cold ground and moisture. This reduces heat loss, allowing cattle to rest comfortably without huddling or pacing. Studies from land-grant universities, including SDSU, show that bedded cattle exhibit fewer signs of stress.

As winter's chill sets in across the heartland, beef producers know all too well the challenges it brings to feedlot operations

Muddy pens, frozen ground, and biting winds can stress cattle, impacting health, performance, and ultimately your bottom line. But there's a proven strategy to combat these issues: implementing effective winter bedding in your feedlots. Research from South Dakota State University (SDSU) underscores these benefits.



Environmental

Winter bedding supports sustainable practices. It improves manure management by incorporating organic matter, which can enhance compost quality for field application come spring.

Health improvements

Unbedded pens in winter often turn into quagmires of mud and manure, fostering bacteria and pathogens. This environment increases the risk of respiratory issues and foot problems such as footrot or hairy heel wart. Bedding absorbs moisture, keeps pens drier, and minimizes direct contact with contaminants. While health effects vary, cleaner conditions mean less risk of slips and injuries, keeping your herd productive through the toughest months.

From a performance standpoint, the gains are undeniable

SDSU data provides strong, local evidence that cold-stressed cattle divert energy from growth to survival, leading to lower average daily gains (ADG) and reduced feed efficiency. Bedding helps maintain optimal thermoneutral zones, so more nutrients go toward growth. Economically, the return on investment is strong; while bedding materials cost \$10-20 per head annually, the increased gains and reduced interventions often yield a solid payback.



Protect your investment

Bedding calves isn't just a nicety—it's a strategic tool backed by research for resilient feedlot operations in tough climates like ours. **Aim for 4-6 inches of bedding depth**, replenishing as needed based on weather and stocking density or on a consistent schedule to stay ahead of the game. By bedding your feedlots this winter, you'll protect your investment, improve outcomes, and set your operation up for success.

Have Questions?

Give PLS a call at 800-626-7768

Winter News

New Defenses Against BRD
PLS Podcast Channel



PrimeLine IN5: An intranasal vaccine for early, broad-spectrum protection against Bovine Respiratory Disease

- Proven reduction in mortality and lung lesions
- Built from current isolates — not outdated strains
- Proven efficacy against the pathogens that drive BRD
- Protects calves from day 3 onward — no waiting, no gaps
- Sets calves up for fewer treatments, fewer pulls, and stronger gains
- Savings opportunity
- Available in 10 and 50 dose bottles

PrimeLine™ IN5
INTRANASAL VACCINE



HEALTH.
NUTRITION.
PERFORMANCE.
PROFECTUS.



Have Questions?
Contact your PLS Veterinarian or Sales rep
800-626-7768

Bovine Respiratory Disease continues to challenge the cattle industry

Profectus offers two new defenses against bovine respiratory disease (BRD) pathogens. Gamrozyne, which is the first and only bioequivalent to Zactran, and the new PrimeLine IN5, a new broad-spectrum shield against loss to BRD, built to protect calves and your bottom line.

Gamrozyne: The first and only generic Zactran (gamithromycin)



Gamrozyne is a fast-acting, injectable macrolide antibiotic for treatment of BRD in beef and non-lactating dairy cattle. Gamithromycin has been proven to reach the target lung tissue within 30 minutes and delivers 10 days of treatment with a single subcutaneous injection in the neck. Gamrozyne is available in 250 mL and 500 mL bottles, with a dosage of 2 mL per 110 lbs.

Gamrozyne or PrimeLine IN5: What's the difference?

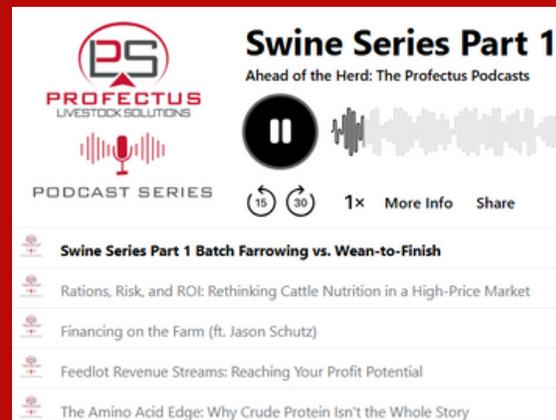
Gamrozyne is for treatment of existing illness (antibiotic), while PrimeLine IN5 is for prevention of disease (vaccine).

Ahead of the Herd: The Profectus Podcasts

Welcome to *Ahead of the Herd*, the official podcast channel of PLS, where innovation meets the day-to-day realities of modern livestock production. We pair our team of experienced veterinarians, nutritionists with other experts in ag from across the Midwest to discuss all things animal health, feed efficiency, and profitability!

Listen on:

- Apple
- Spotify
- Amazon Music
- Youtube
- PLS Website



www.profectuslivestock.com/podcasts