

Records

Complete and accurate records are a necessity. They tell tomorrow what was observed and done today. Processing crews should use a record card printed with a different form on each side. The first form used is the **EXAMINATION** portion which is only filled out on the first day the animal is pulled as sick (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Examination record.

Tag <input type="text"/>		Pen <input type="text"/>		Date 1st Pulled <input type="text"/>		; Time of Day <input type="text"/>	
When 1st Pulled as Sick: <input type="text"/>		Body Temp. <input type="text"/>		; Weight <input type="text"/>			
NOSE:	dry <input type="checkbox"/>	crusted <input type="checkbox"/>	discharge <input type="checkbox"/>	clear <input type="checkbox"/>			
EYES:	clear <input type="checkbox"/>	cloudy <input type="checkbox"/>	ulcers <input type="checkbox"/>	watery <input type="checkbox"/>			
LUNGS:	heavy br. <input type="checkbox"/>	labored <input type="checkbox"/>	rapid <input type="checkbox"/>	cough <input type="checkbox"/>			
DIARRHEA:	bloody <input type="checkbox"/>	watery <input type="checkbox"/>	black <input type="checkbox"/>				
DIGESTIVE:	bloat <input type="checkbox"/>	drawn <input type="checkbox"/>	full <input type="checkbox"/>				
FOOT ROT:	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>					
NERV.SYS:	staggering <input type="checkbox"/>	convulsions <input type="checkbox"/>	muscle twitch <input type="checkbox"/>				
DEPRESSION:	slight <input type="checkbox"/>	moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	severe <input type="checkbox"/>				
OTHER:	<input type="text"/>						
DIAGNOSIS:	<input type="text"/>						
SEVERITY OF ILLNESS:	<input type="text"/> (S)light; (M)oderate; (V)ery						
REMARKS:	<input type="text"/>						
	<input type="text"/>						
	<input type="text"/>						
	<input type="text"/>						

The assigned tag number, body temperature and estimated body weight are recorded at the top of the card. Visible symptoms are recorded by checking appropriate spaces. If a diagnosis is made, it is recorded. The severity of illness is rated as slightly ill (S), moderately ill (M) or very ill (V). Space is also provided for any additional remarks that pertain to the sick animal. (See examples 1-5).

Remember, all this is to *jog your memory* tomorrow or, in your absence, to inform a substitute why the animal was pulled as sick. The reverse side of the card is the **TREATMENT** portion of the record. This portion will be discussed in subsequent sections.

Systematic Treatment

When cattle are sick on arrival or shortly thereafter, there is usually insufficient time to diagnose or identify the causative organisms before treatment begins.

The bovine respiratory disease complex (BRD) and diseases which result in diarrhea cause 99% of the health problems during the first three weeks after arrival. BRD is caused by a combination of respiratory viral infections plus stress, compounded by bacterial infections. The major stresses have already occurred and the viruses are essentially untreatable. Therefore, the bacterial infections must be controlled by the use of antibacterial drugs (antibiotics and sulfas). The sick cattle are medicated for bacterial infections in general rather than specific diseases, with the exception of bloody diarrhea. In all cases, cattle designated and identified as sick are medicated while in the squeeze chute for routine processing. The **SICK** animals are medicated **ONE** of **TWO** ways, the deciding factor being the presence or absence of **BLOODY DIARRHEA**.

1. Sick animals **WITHOUT** bloody diarrhea pulled for visible signs or a high body temperature are treated with: (for example)

Injectable OXYTETRACYCLINE
and
SULFA BOLUSES