**Broken Needles**

Broken needles are classified as an emergency event. Broken needles can migrate through the animal very quickly and are considered an adulterant of the beef product. A broken needle found in a beef product could cause serious repercussions for the feedyard and the beef industry. Proper animal handling is necessary to ensure the safety of beef products.

**Protocol for Broken Needles**

Ensure needles are not bent or broken before and after each injection is administered and prior to releasing the animal.

If a needle breaks off in an animal, STOP everything and attempt to locate and remove the needle.

Firmly, but carefully, rub your hand over the injection area to locate the needle. If it is found remove it ensuring that the entire needle is retrieved.

If the needle cannot be immediately located, mark and record the area where the injection was given with paint or by clipping the hair in that area, sort the animal off by itself, and contact the feedyard veterinarian. The contact information is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If the veterinarian cannot remove the needle surgically then the animal will be identified by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and placed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and cannot be marketed.

**Remember these suggestions to help prevent broken needles**:

1. Consult with the feedyard veterinarian when making needle purchasing decision

2. Follow label instructions for needle selection

3. Select needle size to fit the size of the animal

4. Restrain animals properly

5. A bent needle is a broken needle

6. Replace dull, bent, burred or damaged needles immediately

**General Guidelines for Needle Selection**

