

## **Experimental anaplasma vaccine approved for use in cattle**

With 24 anaplasmosis positive cases seen in North Carolina in 2019, the State Veterinarian reminds cattle producers that the University Products LLC anaplasmosis vaccine is approved for use in North Carolina.

“A review of the product's efficacy, North Carolina joined 28 states and Puerto Rico in offering this vaccine as a treatment option,” said State Veterinarian Doug Meckes. The vaccine utilizes the Mississippi strain of *Anaplasma marginale* which appears to cross protect against most of the *Anaplasma* strains in the U.S.

Anaplasmosis is a vector-borne, infectious blood disease in cattle caused by the rickettsial parasites *Anaplasma marginale* and *Anaplasma centrale*. It is also known as yellow-bag or yellow-fever. This parasite infects the red blood cells and causes severe anemia. It is most often spread by ticks. There were 23 anaplasmosis positive cases in North Carolina in 2019.

The disease is generally mild in calves under a year of age, rarely fatal in cattle up to two years of age, sometimes fatal in animals up to three years of age, and often fatal in older cattle. Once an animal recovers from infection, either naturally or with normal therapy, it will usually remain a carrier of the disease for life. Carriers show no sign of the disease but act as sources of infection for other susceptible cattle.

The vaccine requires two doses the first year with an annual booster each year after the first year. Immunity generally occurs about seven to 10 days after the second injection of vaccine.

Contact University Products LLC at 1-800-308-5242 to obtain the vaccine. More information is on its website, [anaplasmosisvaccine.com](http://anaplasmosisvaccine.com).