

HOW TO...

PICK THE RIGHT NEEDLE

Why...

There is a large range of needles, each designed to do a specific job. Some are re-usable which can be sterilised, some are disposable for single use. All needles have a "gauge". This determines the thickness of a needle, the **lower** the gauge the **thicker** the needle. You then need to choose a length (inches). So for example, to inject a piglet subcutaneously (under the skin) you would probably need a short narrow needle such as a 20g 1/2" where as an intramuscular injection on cattle would be a 16g 1 1/2".

If a needle is described as "luer Lock" this means there is a thread within the hub of the needle to screw in and "lock" onto other apparatus (e.g. Slap-shot or syringe)

Guide

Below is a guide to popular needle sizes and their applications. However this is just a guide and you should always check the data sheet with the medication in case there is a specific size recommended.

Ins	Gauge	Application
3/8	21g	Poultry
5/8	21g	Poultry/ debudding calves
3/8	20g	Iron for Piglets
5/8	20g	Vaccines for piglets and lambs
1	20g	Antibiotics for lamb/ piglets
1/2	19g	Vaccines for lambs/sheep
1/2	18g	Vaccines for Sheep
3/4	18g	Iron for Pigs
1/2	17g	Vaccines Sheep/ Cattle Noromectin for Pig
3/4	17g	Vaccine Sheep/ Cattle
1	17g	Antibiotics for sheep/cattle
3/4	16g	Vaccines & Ivomec Cattle
1	16g	Antibiotics for Cattle
1	15g	Cattle
1 1/4	14	Cattle
1 1/2 - 3 1/8	14	Copper injections & Flutter Valve for Cattle

Tips and Rules

- Always read the advice on the medication in case there is a specific size needle required
- Never re use disposable needles or unsterilized hypodermic needles
- Use shorter needles for subcutaneous injections and longer ones for intramuscular
- Always dispose of used needles in a sharps container

Call Free!

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Tips and Notes

Slap-Shot

The **Slap-Shot Flexible Vaccinator** is clear flexible tubing with luer-lock ends which accept any standard luer-lock needles or syringes. You can stand further from the animal without losing or breaking the needle. Ideal for pigs and cattle.



Cox Sterivax

Self sterilising vaccination gun and needle kit to give up to 300 automatically disinfected and accurate injections. Ideal for people with larger herds.



You Will Need

- Needle
- Syringe /dosing gun
- Sharps container
- Consider using a slap-shot or sterivax (see above)

Other Guides in the Series relevant to this article

Subcutaneous Injection, Intra muscular injections, Restraining and controlling Animals