
mRNA Vaccine Fact Sheet

April 2023

Background:

Misinformation has been shared on social media claiming humans can become vaccinated against COVID-19 through the consumption of animal protein from livestock treated with mRNA vaccines.

Facts:

Livestock are not vaccinated against COVID-19.

There are different types of vaccine platforms, but regardless of vaccine type, vaccine components, especially RNA, are digested or broken down and do not persist in animal cells.

Livestock vaccines undergo rigorous safety studies and are approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics.

Vaccines are important for safeguarding animal health and well-being, keeping the food supply safe, and protecting U.S. livestock from emerging and foreign diseases.

There is ongoing research around the world developing mRNA vaccines for highly contagious foreign animal diseases which could potentially benefit livestock in the future. However, these vaccines are not approved or available in the U.S. currently for use.

With all vaccination of livestock, there are withdrawal times to ensure products are safe for human consumption by waiting a specific amount of time between when an animal is vaccinated and when it enters the food supply.

Meat from vaccinated animals is safe to consume and people cannot be inoculated by eating meat.

Third Party Resources:

FactCheck.org on Vaccine Misinformation: <https://www.factcheck.org/2021/07/scicheck-meme-spreads-falsehood-about-vaccine-transfer/>

CDC: Understanding How Vaccines work: <https://perma.cc/A5K8-XAYQ>

APHIS: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/ed_materials/vac_overview_handout.pdf

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