Intramuscular Injection Procedure

* Many drugs have to be injected deep into the muscles to give more rapid absorption and may lead to less irritation.
* In cattle the intramuscular injection should be given deep into the muscles of the neck rather than into the big muscle mass of a hind quarter. The reason is that the rear end is where the high-priced meat is on the carcass, and is the last place you want to cause an abscess in the carcass to be found when the animal is killed.
* Wipe the area off with and alcohol swab.
* Remove the needle from the syringe.
* When giving and IM injection into the rump area you can warn the animal by banging on the injection spot with your fist a couple of times before you stick the needle in using one swift motion of the same hand.(needle only)
* Once placed into the animal then attach the syringe to the needle.
* It is important that the injection is not put into subcutaneous fat and actually hits muscle. That’s why it needs to go in deep.
* Just before pressing the syringe plunger; withdraw it a little and if has inadvertently gone into a blood vessel, blood will show in the barrel of the syringe. If this happens the needle must be moved to a new site so that the injection is intramuscular and not intravenous.
* If a spore of some clostridial organism such as tetanus, blackleg, black disease or malignant oedema, is lying harmlessly in the muscle, the disturbance created by the injection may cause it to germinate leading to fatal disease. This is a good reason for keeping clostridial vaccinations up-to-date.