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Understanding the Veterinary Feed Directive

Libby Bigler

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• Concern for antibiotic resistance associated with daily antibiotic use in animal feeds.
• VFD allows vital feed antibiotic use in livestock to protect their health and well-being.
  - “Prevention”, “control” and “treatment” of bacterial diseases

What exactly is a VFD?
A written order (paper or electronic) by a licensed veterinarian in the course of their practice approving the use of a VFD medication.

1. Only antibiotics that are administered in the feed or water - Not injectables!
2. Antibiotics in the water will require a Rx - may be use Extra-Label with Vet consent
3. There is no legal use of in feed drugs other than as provided for on the label
4. Over the counter (OTC)

* Changing the marketing status from OTC to VFD or Rx

Current and Future VFD Drugs

Oct 1, 2015 - the VFD rule went into effect for the currently approved VFD medications.
Jan 2017 - labels will be changed changing other OTC medicated feeds considered medically important to VFD approved medications.
1. Must have a relationship with a licensed veterinarian (VCPR)
   A. FDA and State’s Agency that regulates Veterinary Licensure defines regulations on “Veterinary Client Patient Relationship”
   i. Familiar with the care and management cattle receive by client and be able to make a preliminary diagnosis of targeted concern
   ii. Willing to assume responsibility and client is willing to follow veterinarian’s instructions
   iii. Willing to provide treatment oversight & follow-up evaluation and case management
   iv. Case and treatment records are maintained and evaluated by the vet
2. Visit Veterinarian before VFD feed is needed
3. Visit Feed distributor about details for obtaining VFD feed

Your veterinarian will determine:
- Regimen of the antibiotic (dose, duration) within label options (there may be only one or a range)
- Number of cattle to which the VFD drug may be fed
- Amount of the VFD drug which may be purchased
- The duration of use
- The length of time the VFD drug is allowed to be fed to the animals
- The Expiration date
- Specifies the last day the VFD feed can be fed

Record Keeping
- You will provide name, address, phone number, location of cattle, approximate weight and number of cattle that will be covered under VFD.
- Keep a copy of signed VFD from your vet for at least 2 years

- Milk replacer with neomycin and oxytetracycline (NeoTerra)
- Yes
- Chlortetracycline in the feed for footrot
  - Not allowed, this is illegal extralabel use
- Mineral or feed with chlortetracycline for anaplasmosis prevention
  - Yes
- Tylosin for reduction in liver abscesses
  - Yes

- Monensin (Rumensin®) as the only antibiotic in the ration.
  - No, this is not a medically important antibiotic
- Monensin fed concurrently with Tylosin
  - In this case, the VFD for tylosin would need to authorize the concurrent feeding of monensin
- Chlortetracycline or oxytetracycline in the feed for treatment of bovine respiratory disease
  - Yes

1. Veterinary Client Patient Relationship
2. Abide by the LABEL!
   - Your veterinarian can only authorize uses which conform to the product label for in-feed antibiotics
   - This is currently the law for in-feed use of all drugs