

Management

Veterinary Feed Directive: You have questions? We have answers!

By Jesse Fulton, Associate Director – Producer Education

With Jan. 1 less than two months away, it is important that producers understand what is coming down the line from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concerning the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). NCBA has been working to provide educational opportunities and resources in order for producers to be well informed about the regulations and requirements regarding VFD.

The first resource is NCBA's Antibiotic Resource Center (ARC), which can be found at www.BeefUSA.org/antibiotics. The ARC is your one-stop location to find information and resources regarding responsible antibiotic use for beef producers and industry stakeholders. This includes

details about the new VFD and changes to antibiotics regulations that go into effect Jan. 1, 2017.

The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program is rooted in a cattleman's belief of doing the right thing. The judicious use of antibiotic technologies is no exception to the goal of producing high quality, wholesome, and healthy beef. BQA guidelines are designed to make sure all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.

Responsible antibiotic use is important to ensure that animal health technologies remain viable for the beef industry. It is important that judicious use protocols are implemented so that animals are never marketed with residues and so that cattlemen responsibly and

effectively treat sick cattle.

Another resource available to producers is the BQA Antibiotic Stewardship for Beef Producers booklet. This document contains guidelines for judicious antibiotic use, steps to avoid violative residues, regulations regarding animal health products and many other best management practices related to antibiotic use. The Antibiotic Stewardship for Beef Producers manual can be found on the ARC page referenced above.

Finally, on the ARC producers can view two recorded webinars on antibiotics from the cattlemen's webinar series. Both webinars cover information on antibiotic use regulations in the cattle industry and how farmers, ranchers and feeders can plan to adjust management systems to achieve compliance. The first webinar featured speakers Dr. Mike Apley, professor of production medicine and clinical pharmacology at Kansas

State University, and Dr. Craig Lewis, veterinary medical officer of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. The second webinar featured Mike Murphy, DVM, JD, Ph.D., veterinary medical officer in the Office of the Director in the Center for Veterinary Medicine at the FDA, and Tom Portillo, DVM, manager of animal health and wellbeing of Friona Industries and 2016/17 president of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants.

Marketing beef with antibiotic residues, even unintentionally, is illegal and can result in significant consequences, both legally and financially. The judicious use of antibiotics results in preserved effectiveness of antibiotics, healthier cattle and less expense for producers, while also helping communicate a story that increases consumer confidence. When healthy cattle leave the farm and reach the market place, the producer, packer, and consumer all benefit. 🐾



BQA IS MY STORY. WHAT'S YOURS?

Frank Stoltzfus
2016 BQA Cow-Calf Award Winner
Masonic Village Farm
Elizabethtown, Pa.

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