

A Shared Goal of Antimicrobial Stewardship

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Antimicrobial drugs are used to prevent, control and treat bacterial diseases affecting animals and are just one tool that farmers and ranchers use to keep their animals healthy. Cattlemen and women join with the larger livestock community in working together to continuously improve—through quality assurance programs—the ways that antimicrobial drugs are being used in food-producing animals. Antimicrobial stewardship refers to the responsible and appropriate use of antimicrobial drugs to improve health, reduce microbial infections, decrease the spread of infectious disease agents and mitigate the development of resistant bacteria.

Quality Assurance for the Beef Community

For nearly 30 years, the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program has worked to ensure that cattle farmers and ranchers are continuously improving the ways that they raise beef, including the ways that they use antimicrobial drugs. The BQA program is a voluntary, nationally coordinated, state-implemented program to provide guidelines for raising cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. The BQA program is guided by an advisory board, which is composed of veterinarians, animal scientists, meat scientists, state BQA

coordinators, cattlemen and dairymen from across the United States. BQA is committed to continually improving training materials and educational resources to extend relevant tools for those who raise and work with cattle.

A significant part of the BQA program involves antimicrobial stewardship training about the appropriate use and administration of antimicrobial drugs, the honoring of withdrawal times to avoid antimicrobial drug residue violations, the prevention of environmental contamination, the need for accurate record-keeping, and the importance of a valid veterinarian, client, patient relationship (VCPR). In order to better promote the judicious use of antimicrobial drugs in beef cattle and to better inform farmers and ranchers on the principles of antimicrobial stewardship, the BQA program released a BQA antimicrobial stewardship supplement in August 2016 on the BQA website, www.bqa.org. The BQA antimicrobial stewardship supplement, "Antibiotic Stewardship for Beef Producers," will serve as a handy reference guide for farmers and ranchers to identify best practices for antimicrobial drug use in cattle.

FDA-CVM Addresses Stewardship with Antimicrobial Use Guidance

The use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals is currently under great

scrutiny both nationally and internationally, with pressure to describe and to reduce the usage of these drugs in animals. In 2003, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) began to require the evaluation of microbial safety for antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals, as described in GFI #152 and GFI #159. These two documents set new standards for evaluating how antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals might have an effect on the ability to treat infectious diseases in humans, and on the ability for resistant bacteria to proliferate and cause disease in the intestinal tract of humans. In 2012, FDA-CVM released GFI #209 requesting the voluntary compliance with two major changes to antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals: 1) pharmaceutical companies would voluntarily remove growth promotion claims for any medically important antimicrobial drugs used in feed for food-producing animals, and 2) the use of the medically important antimicrobial drugs in the feed or water of food-producing animals would be only under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. FDA-CVM has placed the veterinarian in charge of ensuring antimicrobial stewardship for the medically important antimicrobial drugs used in feed or water.

Effective Jan. 1, the medically important

antimicrobial drugs used in feed will require a veterinary feed directive (VFD) order from a licensed veterinarian and a veterinary prescription for any use in water. Extra label use of a drug in feed for food-producing animals is illegal. Any drug present in feed must be used as specifically directed on the label for dose, duration of administration and indication for use. All feed containing a VFD drug will have on the label, "Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this veterinary feed directive drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian."

Stewardship Responsibilities Using the VFD

- FDA-CVM's guidance for changes in accessibility for the medically important antimicrobial drugs used in feed or water for the food-producing animals functions to strengthen stewardship practices for antimicrobial drug use. Veterinarians, as well as farmers and ranchers, have added antimicrobial stewardship responsibilities. Farmers and ranchers should be aware of their chief responsibilities under the VFD:
- Only feed animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or a combination VFD drug to animals based on a VFD issued by a licensed veterinarian.
- Do not feed a VFD feed or combination VFD feed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD.
- Provide a copy of the VFD order to the feed distributor if the issuing veterinarian sends the distributor's copy through the producer.
- Maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of two years.
- Provide VFD orders for inspection and copying by FDA, upon request.

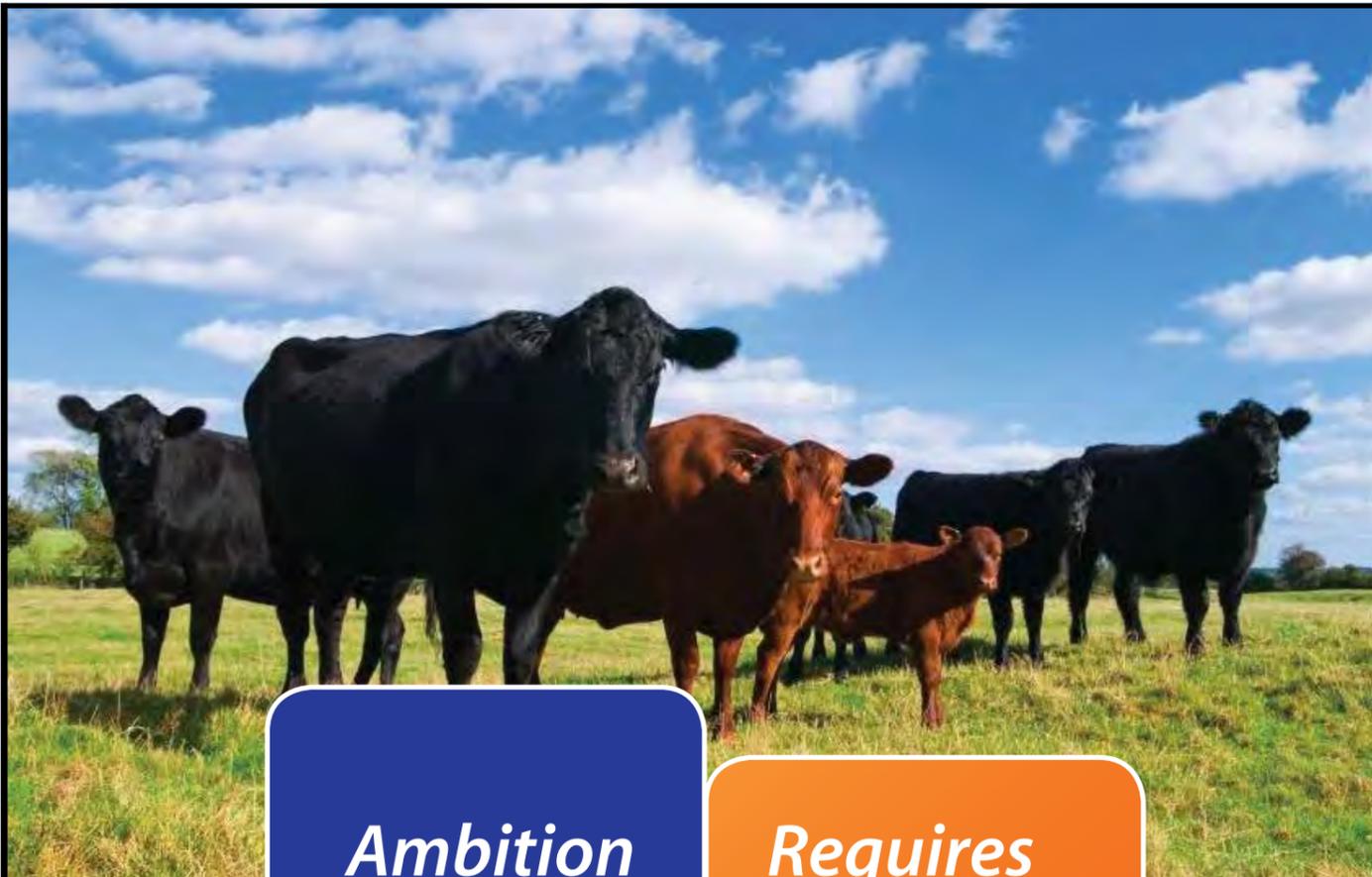
Under FDA guidance, veterinarians are responsible for providing oversight for the use of all medically important antimicrobial drugs used in the feed or water of food-producing animals. In the context of a valid VCPR, a veterinarian issues a VFD order to the client and to the feed distributor. The veterinarian must retain the original VFD order, which is subject to FDA inspection, for two years.

A Commitment to Continuous Improvement

NCBA takes the commitment to promote antimicrobial stewardship practices very seriously and seeks to educate our members, consumers, regulators, legislators and the general public on the merits of BQA directed, responsible antimicrobial drug use within the diversified sectors of the beef cattle industry. NCBA has worked with FDA-CVM to support the implementation of judicious antimicrobial drug use in GFI #209.

Within the parameters of antimicrobial stewardship, NCBA is not only committed to continuing our educational outreach, but also to directing future research into achieving a better understanding of the mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance is a complex and multi-factorial problem. The beef community continues to invest in research to better understand how to effectively and appropriately use antimicrobial drugs to best protect animal and public health. NCBA has organized a research advisory group composed of a wide range of university researchers within the agricultural community to direct the planning for future antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance research activities.

Antimicrobial stewardship is a shared goal that can be achieved through farmers and ranchers, veterinarians, physicians, regulators and animal and public health authorities working together to practice and promote the responsible use of antimicrobial drugs. Research activities can facilitate an increased awareness and understanding of the mechanisms for the development of antimicrobial resistance and direct future action for solutions to this complex problem. 🐾



Ambition

**Requires
Vision**

It's important to see things as they really are – and how they could be.

**Ambition is knowing the seeds I'm planting today will create lasting value.
It's working alongside those who share my vision.**

My ambition is to build the best possible future for my family and me.



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