



Veterinary Feed Directive: A game changer.

Effective 1.1.17 medications like oxytet or CTC that you may have been purchasing mixed into your feed will no longer be mixed at a mill without a VFD, a special veterinary prescription form filled out by a veterinarian. Treating pneumonia in the feed will no longer be effective. Some will still try.

This will include medications used for poultry, pheasants, rabbits, sheep, and the list goes on and on.

Coccidiostats (ex:Corid & Bovatec) and ionophores (ex:Rumensin) will not be affected, except that mixing most antibiotics with products like Rumensin will be prohibited.

Medicated milk replacers will be included if they contain tetracycline or neomycin.

The veterinarian will be required to have been on the farm in most cases, and actually have observed the animals that the VFD is written for.

Each treatment event will require a separate VFD. As an example, if you want to put CTC crumbles into the feed for a group of steers, the law only allows the product to be fed 5 days. The veterinarian will have to state the size and number of animals and the mill will only mix enough feed for that particular group of steers for five days of treatment. Want to retreat three days later? You need a new VFD from the vet.

There are three copies of every VFD, one for the vet, one for the feed mill, and one for the farm. All three parties will be required to keep copies for two years. There will be inspectors starting at the mill to look at individual mills records, which must match the antibiotic premix records that the premix distributor is required to keep. From the VFD the mill retains, the inspector will then go to individual farms to check records on the farm, and to veterinary clinics to check their records.

No prescriptions may be written over the phone. Elaborate forms will have to be filled out, which include number of animals and weight of animals, species, diseases, etc.

Each drug has a very specific feeding level and a specific duration of treatment. If you want to feed neomycin teramycin medicated milk replacer you are allowed to feed it 14 days. If the milk replacer bag says feed 12 ounces of powder twice per day, that is how much you are required to feed. If you want to feed three times a day, only two feedings can be with the medicated replacer, the third with a separate non-medicated replacer.

There will be no more CTC crumbles or AS700 crumbles that producers top dress; all medications used in the water to treat pneumonia will remain prescription products.

Below is the definition of a **Veterinary Client Relationship**, which by law is required for a veterinarian to write a prescription or sell a prescription drug for animal use. This rule covers both injectable drugs and antibiotics prescribed for use in feed. Going forward, this rule will drive your relationship with veterinary oversight of drug use.

Veterinary Client Relationship

1. A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of (an) animal(s) & the need for medical treatment, & the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian; &
2. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s); &
3. The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy. Such a relationship can exist only when the veterinarian has recently seen & is personally acquainted with the keeping & care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate & timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.



Foot blocks: We are changing to all oak blocks. The argument for oak is that they are a little thicker, so damaged toe is a little higher off the ground, and they wear down slower with rough concrete. Also the grooves allow a better bond with the glue. They are a little more expensive. **REMEMBER THAT ALL BLOCKS NEED TO BE REMOVED IN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.**

Bedding cultures, a new component of our lab services:

Bedding cultures are done to measure bacterial loads in the bedding used in the cow stalls. The numbers from the report are useful when investigating mastitis problems, checking out alternative bedding sources or monitoring cleanliness of recycled sand.

If the bedding is inorganic such as sand then the lab will report dry matter, organic load and bacterial load. If the bedding material is organic such as dried manure solids or straw then the lab will report dry matter and bacterial level.

The level of organic material in sand is important to know because it can indicate a greater risk for bacterial growth. Even clean sand will have a small amount of organic material in it, but high organic loads on sand taken from the stall or from the recycled sand piles can indicate sand contaminated with manure.

The bacteria levels reported from the lab target total bacteria counts which include total strep counts, coliform counts, and Klebsiella counts.

Recommendations are for counts to be done two to four times per year.

Q-fever awareness:

This is a weird bacterial disease commonly associated with sheep and goats, but you can get the infection from other animals as well. The disease can affect humans. It causes a fever for several days, and then in many people they have a year of chronic fatigue. Long term it can cause heart damage.

Goat numbers are increasing as the demand for goat cheese increases. Also, more people are getting sheep and goats on hobby farms, and honestly, goats are pretty nice animals that clean up all kinds of nasty weeds.

Most people infected with Q-fever recover without ever seeking medical help and in one case where one of our clients had the disease it took six months before his doctor looked for Q-fever.

The take home is that all of us that interact with animals every day don't recognize that we are not representative of what doctors normally see. The average sick person walking into a medical clinic may have a single pet dog, or petted a horse a year ago, but the average person never gets exposed to large numbers of animals. Doctors don't realize that animal care givers have a unique group of diseases that they are exposed to. So if you or your kids get sick, and especially if your doctor is a little puzzled with your symptoms, be sure to inform your doctor about your animal exposure. Also inform your doctor if you drink raw milk.

Jenny Edmunds evaluating the bedding cultures.



Can You Help??

Dr. Abbie Wirt is working on her embryo transfer certification and is looking for a few quality donor cows, and possible IVF candidates. Call the clinic or Abbie at 920-344-1718. Ideal animals are cows 60 days in milk and virgin heifers that have gone through at least two heat cycles.