

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Regulation Information for Beef Producers



Producer Requirements

- Only feed a medicated animal feed containing a VFD drug to animals based on a VFD issued by a licensed veterinarian;
- Do not feed a medicated animal feed containing a VFD drug after the expiration date of the VFD;
- Maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of two years;
- Provide VFD orders for inspection to the FDA upon request; and
- Avoid extra-label use of VFD feed, which is strictly prohibited.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made changes to the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) regulations in order to:

- Promote judicious use of antibiotics;
- Protect public health; and
- Limit the development of antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals.

Those antibiotics classified as “medically important” (examples listed below), will

no longer be available over the counter and cannot be used in sub-therapeutic (e.g., growth promotion, feed efficiency) applications.

If you want to use these medicated feeds for therapeutic uses (e.g., treat a diagnosed illness or control spread of illness in your herd), you will have to obtain a VFD from your veterinarian.

These regulations will be in full effect on January 1, 2017.

How Can You Be Prepared?

1. Establish or strengthen an on-going relationship with a veterinarian to ensure you have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship;
2. Contact your feed supplier to ensure they are informed about the VFD rule changes and that they will be a VFD feed distributor;
3. Review your operation’s current health protocols and feeds to identify products/procedures that will be affected by the new regulations; and
4. Review your overall health program to determine if there are changes that can be made to reduce the need for antibiotics.

Affected and Unaffected Medicated Feeds

Medically important antimicrobials that will no longer be over-the-counter include:

- Chlortetracycline
- Neomycin
- Oxytetracycline
- Sulfamethazine
- Tylosin

Products used exclusively on animals (non-medically important) will not be affected by new regulations. These products include:

- Ionophores
- Beta Agonists
- Coccidiostats
- Bacitracins

For more information about the new VFD regulations please visit:
<https://are.ucdavis.edu/en/people/researchers/tina-saitone/vfd/>