



CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2016

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE?

Important information for anyone who raises cows, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, and any other food producing animal

In December 2013, the FDA published a report with the goals of promoting the judicious use of antibiotics, protecting public health, and limiting the development of antimicrobial resistance. As a direct result, new legislation in the form of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) was enacted that prevented antibiotics from being used for growth promotion and regulated the way antibiotics could be obtained by producers.

So how does this new legislation affect the way you farm? Most importantly, no antibiotics will be allowed to be used for the sole purpose of growth promotion. With that being said, feed and water based antibiotics can still be obtained to treat or prevent disease in at-risk groups of animals. Additionally products such as ionophores (Monesin, Bovatec), dewormers, coccidiostats (Amprolium, Deccox), MGA, Dengard, Paylean, Optaflex, and Gainpro will not be affected by the new legislation as they have no human medical importance.

The new rules state that antibiotics that are put in water (Aureomycin, Terramycin, Agrimycin, Biosol liquid, Albon, SMZ-Med, etc.) will no longer be available over the counter and will require a veterinary prescription to purchase. Feed based antibiotics (Aureomycin, Lincomix, Terramycin, Tylan, Neo-Oxy, Pulmotil) will also no longer be available over the counter and will require a different type of document, a VFD.

A VFD is a form that is filled out by your veterinarian which allows the use of a certain antibiotic in feed for treatment or prevention of disease. The VFD will contain information regarding the drug name, the dose, the duration of use, the group of animals to be treated/number of animals to be treated, the expiration date, and drug combinations allowed. A copy of this form will be kept by you, your veterinarian, and a copy will be given to the feed mill. Everyone will be required to maintain VFD records for 2 years.

So what should you do to prepare for the changes? The first

DO YOU KNOW YOUR VACCINES?

Bovishield Gold One

Shot

Use: Modified-live virus (MLV) vaccine for protection from respiratory disease caused by strains of IBR, BVD (Types 1 and 2), PI3 and BRSV viruses and Mannheimia (Pasteurella) haemolytica

Dose: 2 mL SQ

Dosing: Primary Vaccination: Administer a single dose to healthy cattle.

Revaccination: Annual revaccination with a single dose is recommended.

Special Notes:

Do not use in pregnant cows (abortions can result) unless they were vaccinated, according to label directions, with any BOVI-SHIELD GOLD FP or PREGGUARD GOLD FP vaccine within the past 12 months.

step to take would be to make sure you have an established relationship with a veterinarian. This will be important since having a valid Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) is a cornerstone of issuing a VFD. The next step would be to review the feed and water-based antibiotics that are used for your food animals. It will be important to take note of any antibiotics that you currently use solely for growth promotion, if any, and those used for therapeutic use. Additionally, it would be prudent to establish written protocols for how antibiotics

will be used in the face of illness. For example, beef producers that uses Tylan to reduce liver abscess formation in feedlot cattle will need to be aware of the number of cattle that will be coming and going on the farm in order for a VFD to be present at times of risk. The new regulations and VFD requirements will go into effect January 1st, 2017 so we still have several months to prepare.

Finally, if you are thinking about stockpiling antibiotics on your farm prior to 2017 to avoid any of the hassle, be aware that after December 31st, 2016 you will need

a VFD from a veterinarian to feed any of the affected antibiotics, even if you obtained them prior to the January 1, 2017 deadline. If you have any questions or concerns about these new regulations, feel free to contact us at the clinic.



COLOSTRUM AND ITS COMPONENTS

New Research on the Importance of Colostrum

We all know that colostrum is very important to raising calves, but recent research have found even more evidence that colostrum not only influences the calf's immediate livelihood, but also its success in the herd for years to come. Immunogloblins (IG), a component that we have known about for years, have been shown to increase milk production by 2lbs over the first two lactations and reduce cull rates by 50% in animals that receive at least 4 liters (~2 Qts) of good quality colostrum in the first few hours of life.

Colostrum leukocytes are a more recent discovery in colostrum that are thought to increase local immunity in the calf. The colostrum leukocytes help the calf fight stressors by upregulating the defense mechanisms in the body and these effects are believed to last through to the 2nd lactation of the animal. The discovery of colostrum leukocytes is an important one not just for its significance in immunity in the calf but also because it changes the way we look at how we store colostrum. Studies have shown that these colostrum leukocytes are destroyed when colostrum is frozen and this may be the reason that farms who only use frozen colostrum may have more calf health issues. This is not to undercut the importance of having some frozen colostrum on hand in case of an emergency, but it does make us rethink our protocols if we rely too heavily on only using frozen colostrum. As for pasteurization of colostrum, it has been shown that this method will destroy 80-90% of colostrum leukocytes as well. However, the remaining 10-20% is still thought to provide the immunity effects associated with colostrum leukocytes.

So what should you, as a producer, take away from this new research? First and foremost, it should reaffirm that fact that colostrum is vitally important for all calves. Additionally, it should lead to a discussion with calf managers and feeders to talk about what your current protocols are and if there are ways they can be improved. For example, if you feed a lot of frozen colostrum you should either look to see if there is a reason your calves can't get fresh or pasteurized colostrum. You could also consider using some fresh colostrum with your frozen source to make sure your calves get full advantage of the colostrum leukocytes. If you have any more questions regarding this new research or other calf care concerns, please feel free to contact us at the clinic.