

Prepare for the Veterinary Feed Directive, July 2016

At the end of this calendar year, the Food and Drug Administration will implement new rules regarding the use of medically important antibiotics in livestock production. On December 31, 2016 the new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule will make the farmer/veterinary relationship of utmost importance.

The process has included the removal of growth promotion labels from medically important antibiotics and the transition of all feed-additive antibiotics from over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to VFD drugs. Use of VFD drugs requires veterinary authorization through a written VFD, which is similar in many ways to a prescription. Additionally, all water-based antibiotics will become prescription medications. By December 31, 2016, the rule will go into full effect for essentially all antibiotics except ionophores.

(Chris Clark, ISU Extension beef program specialist, and Grant Dewell, ISU Extension beef veterinarian)

Following are excerpts from a FDA flyer: **Veterinary Feed Directive Producer Requirements**

What is a VFD? A VFD is a written (nonverbal) statement issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice that authorizes the use of a VFD drug or combination VFD drug in or on an animal feed. This written statement authorizes the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) to obtain and use animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or combination VFD drug to treat the client's animals only in accordance with the conditions for use approved, conditionally approved, or indexed by the FDA. A VFD is also referred to as a VFD order.

What is an "expiration date" on the VFD? The expiration date on the VFD specifies the last day the VFD feed can be fed.

What is a "VFD drug"? A "VFD drug" is a drug intended for use in or on animal feed that is limited to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

What is a "combination VFD drug"? A "combination VFD drug" is an approved combination of new animal drugs intended for use in or on animal feed under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and at least one of the new animal drugs in the combination is a VFD drug.

Client's Responsibilities As the client, a producer must:

- 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;
- 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 of the VFD through you, the client;
- maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of 2 years; and provide VFD orders for inspection and copying by FDA upon request.

This a brief look at some changes that will be in effect at the end of 2016. To help members and all others involved prepare, Iowa Farm Bureau worked with ISU Extension and the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association to provide 11 scheduled informational meetings in late August and early September. Look for information in the Farm Bureau Spokesman and the Farm Bureau website later this summer.

Discussion:

- 1.) Will the new FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive affect your livestock operation?
- 2.) Have you already taken steps to get ready for the new rules?

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