

Changes in the Use of Feed-Grade Antibiotics for Livestock

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Where do these changes come from?

- **FDA Guidance for Industry #209**
 - The use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals should be limited to those uses that are considered necessary for assuring animal health.
 - The use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals should be limited to those uses that include veterinary oversight or consultation.
- **FDA Guidance for Industry #213**
 - Asks drug companies to voluntarily revise product labels to remove growth promotion and feed efficiency claims.
 - Provides for moving over-the-counter products to prescription or veterinary feed directive (VFD) status.

What are “medically important” antibiotics?

- This refers to drug classes important in human medicine. Some examples are:

Class of Antibiotic	Feed-Grade Examples
Aminoglycosides	Neomycin, Streptomycin
Lincosamides	Lincomix®
Macrolides	Pulmotil®, Tylan®
Penicillins	Penicillin, CSP
Streptogramins	Stafac®
Sulfonamides	Sulfamethazine, Aureomix®
Tetracyclines	Aureomycin®, CTC

What is a Veterinary Feed Directive?

- A VFD consists of paperwork for the drug in question which is filled out by a veterinarian (a veterinary-client-patient relationship should be in place). It gives a description of the livestock to be treated, some instructions to the feed mill, and an expiration date.
- The feed mill must have the VFD before feed can be distributed and the feed mill must notify the FDA.

What will change as a result of these FDA Guidances?

- Growth promotion uses in feed no longer allowed.
- Use of medically important feed antibiotics will need a VFD; can only be used for treatment, control, or prevention.
- Each state’s regulations or veterinary board will define what is a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship
- Medically important water medications will move to prescription status.

What won't change as a result of these FDA Guidances?

- Use of non medically important drugs (ionophores, coccidiosis treatments) remains unchanged
- Ability to use feed-grade antibiotics labeled for treatment, control, or prevention won't change, but will require a VFD.
- Injectable antibiotic uses remain the same.
- Extra-label use of feed-grade antibiotics remains illegal
- Veterinarians should still be involved in medication decisions.

Additional Resources

- Daly, Russ. April 2014. Using feed-grade antibiotics in livestock: what changes should we prepare for? Presented at Montana Nutrition Conference and Livestock Forum. Slides available at www.msuextension.org/beefcattle/resources.html
- FDA. The judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. April 2012. Guidance for Industry #209.
- FDA. December 2013. New animal drugs and new animal drug combination products administered in or on medicated feed or drinking water for food-producing animals; recommendations for drug sponsors for voluntarily aligning product use conditions with GFI #209. Guidance for Industry #213.