

**Grant Dewell, DVM, Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, Iowa State University**

## Antibiotics in feed

On June 3, the FDA published the final rule revising regulations for a program known as the Veterinary Feed Directive, or VFD. VFDs were established as a new regulatory class of animal drugs in 1996. This program was established to provide a prescription like program for feed grade medications. Only one drug for use in cattle (Pulmitil) has been approved under this new category. However, starting in December 2016 all feed grade antibiotics (except for ionophores) will move from their current status, Over the Counter (OTC) drugs, to the VFD category. This change in status will require a veterinarian to issue an order (similar to a prescription) prior to these antibiotics being used in feed.

The change in status for all of these antibiotics is part of FDA's plan to address antibiotic resistance issues by increasing restrictions on antibiotic use. Prior to this time, the VFD program was limited in usage and not very user friendly. The move to put all feed antibiotics under the VFD program required that the system be streamlined so that it was not as laborious to issue a VFD order. Below are some items to consider in the next year while we make the transition into the new VFD program.

### What is my feed medication usage?

Since you will no longer be able to stop at the feed store to conveniently pick up CTC, you need to have an idea of when you would typically use feed grade antibiotics so that you can plan ahead. There will certainly be times when you may want to start cattle on treatment with little notice, but planning ahead will decrease any issues. In order for a veterinarian to issue a VFD, a

Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) must be established. That means the veterinarian must have a license to practice in Iowa, assumed responsibility for medical judgements, has sufficient knowledge of animals and is readily available. Make sure that you have a relationship with your veterinarian to provide seamless transfer of usage of feed antibiotics from OTC to VFD.

Once issued, a VFD is only good for 6 months. It is not meant to provide long term ability to use feed grade medications. Therefore, disease prevention usage such as CTC for anaplasmosis in the summer for cows or for pneumonia in weaned calves in the fall will need a new VFD every year.

### Positives of the new VFD

VFD can now be issued electronically instead of by paper forms in triplicate. This will make ordering a batch of feed from the feed mill much easier for you. The new rule allows the VFD to be written for an approximate number of animals instead of a defined amount of feed. The record keeping rules have also been clarified for who (veterinarian, feed distributor and farmer) needs to keep which records and for how long. The simple answer is to keep VFD records for two years.

Now is a good time to begin to prepare for this new regulatory process so that it is not chaotic next year when the final rule is fully implemented. For those of you that use feed grade antibiotics (CTC, Tylan, Sulfas, etc) on a regular basis, talk with your veterinarian over the next year about when and how you use these medications so that there are no major complications during the transition to this new regulatory process.



**MDL Farms**  
**Charolais Cattle**

"Building Better Bulls"

(309) 537-3677  
www.mdlfarms.com

Matt Lafever  
Joy, Illinois

## Hood Charolais

**14 bulls selling May 6 at Dunlap Livestock Auction**

by LT Distance, LT Ledger, LT Sundance and Finks 9727  
2 full sibs of the high-selling yearling bull at the 2013 Iowa Beef Expo

View our bulls on Facebook at Hood Charolais

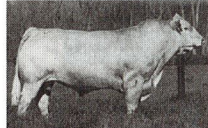
The breeding program based on producing cattle that function in the pasture and feedlot.

**Mark, Carmen, Stephanie, Jennifer, Audrey**  
100 West St., Lorchville, IA 50048  
712-210-4958 (c) • 712-465-2205 (locker)  
lorchvillelocker@yahoo.com

## WAKEFIELD FARMS

### POLLED CHAROLAIS

*Charolais since 1962*



- Participation in bull tests since 1970
- Herd built on performance
- Sire of top-gaining bull of all breeds in 1999 in ICA test out of 409 head

Sr. Herdsire Baldrige Fastrack 82F  
Gene Star tested. 2 stars for marbling, 3 stars for tenderness.

Larry, Kyle & Dan Wakefield  
20701 - 150th St. • New Richland, MN 56072  
Ph. (507) 402-4640 • E-mail: kylerwakefield@gmail.com

**SAVE TIME.**

**PAY ONLINE.**



www.iacattlemen.org/associateform.aspx