

# Guidelines for Responsible Antibiotic Use

## Prevent Disease

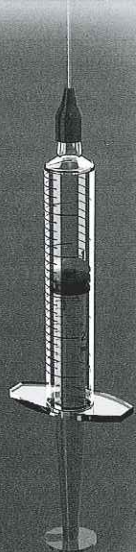
Prevent disease through management by emphasizing animal husbandry, bio-security, hygiene and health maintenance.

**REMEMBER:** Antibiotic use cannot replace sound management practices.

## Use Antibiotics Correctly

**READ THE LABEL.** Follow the label's directions:

- Treatment dosage (how much drug per weight of the animal?)
- Route of administration (Intravenous (IV), Intramuscular (IM), subcutaneous (SQ), Oral)
- Length of treatment (how many times?)
- Withdrawal time (meat and milk hold-outs)



## Identify Sick Animals

- Diagnose health problems early and accurately.
- Know which diseases are treatable with antibiotics.
- Consult your veterinarian.
- Use lab tests to help confirm an infection and determine which drug would be most effective.

## Understanding Drug Labels

### Extra-label Drug Use (ELDU)

Every drug approved by the FDA has a label which describes its uses:

- Specific disease or condition to be treated
- Which species (cattle, swine, horses), and class of animal (beef/dairy, lactating/non-lactating, calves)
- Approved dose, route, duration, and frequency of administration
- Slaughter or milk withdrawal time

Drugs for which adequate instructions for safe and effective use by a layperson can be written, are designated **Over-the-Counter (OTC)** drugs. Over-the-counter drugs are O.K. to use without a veterinarian as long as the label instructions are followed. Using these drugs in a way that differs from the label can only be done by or on the direction of a licensed veterinarian within a valid VCPR.

Drugs for which adequate instructions for use by a layperson cannot be written are designated **Prescription (Rx) drugs**, and must be dispensed by or on the written order of a licensed veterinarian within a valid VCPR.

**Extra-label Use** is defined as any use which is not on the FDA-approved label. Extra-label use of OTC drugs is prohibited except by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian with a valid VCPR. Prescription (Rx) use, whether label or extra-label, also requires a valid VCPR.

**IMPORTANT:** For OTC drugs, only the uses listed on the label are legal for use without veterinary involvement.

Because approved withdrawal times are based on label directions, any other use may result in a longer withdrawal time, and a residue violation if not properly extended.

## Other Sources of Information

- **Your herd veterinarian**
- **Beef & dairy producer organizations**
- **Pharmaceutical company representatives**
- **FDA-CVM website:** <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/>
- [http://www.fda.gov/ora/compliance\\_ref/cpg/cpgvet/cpg615-200.html](http://www.fda.gov/ora/compliance_ref/cpg/cpgvet/cpg615-200.html)
- **AVMA website:** <http://www.avma.org/reference/amduca/amduca1.asp>

## \*Have a VCPR

**A VALID VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP is required for the use of any prescription drug or any extra-label drug on the farm. It is defined as follows:**

1. A veterinarian agrees to be responsible for making decisions about diagnosing and treating animals on the farm, and the client (owner or caretaker of the animal) agrees to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
2. The veterinarian is familiar enough with the farm to be able to make a diagnosis of medical conditions of the animals on that farm.
3. The practicing veterinarian is available for follow-up in case of a drug reaction or in case the therapy does not work.

In summary, a veterinarian must be familiar with the farm and the animal health practices on that farm. Routine visits and discussions with your veterinarian are key elements in maintaining this relationship. Such a relationship exists only when the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.

## Keep Accurate Records

A good record system includes the following:

- Identification of all animals treated individually or by group.
- Drugs used.
- Dates treated—if more than once, include first & last days of treatment.
- Dosage (amount) used.
- Route and location of administration.

Review treatment records before marketing to ensure proper meat and milk withdrawal are met.

FDA recommends that treatment records be kept three years.

**Record keeping is required for any extra-label drug use.**

Printing of Poster funded by:



Funded by The Beef Checkoff



2950 Metro Drive, Suite 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55425  
952-854-6980 Fax: 952-854-6906



\*For more information, see brochure on Guidelines for Responsible Antibiotic Use