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Orders for Delivery: call by 9:30 for same day delivery Mon to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service

MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Thank you for your efforts to call in your delivery orders by 9:30 am so we can get them logged in and out the door! Monday May 23 is a statutory holiday. Please note that the drug delivery service will not be running that day, though both clinic offices will be open in the morning and Veterinarians will be on call for emergencies.

Announcements

Please call the clinic if you have received your CQM notification from DFO in the mail, to arrange CQM training.

How CQM and you can stop drug residues

The number of drug residues that occur in meat is very small. However, cull dairy cows are the No. 1 violator when it comes to drug residues. And, it's an issue that the dairy industry must not ignore. Any level of drug residue is unacceptable.

Here is how you can prevent residues.

Establish written protocol

You and your veterinarian will develop written protocols as part of the **CQM training**. These will serve as an on-farm guide for diagnosis and treatment decisions. A protocol should include signs of disease and detailed directions for treatment, including meat- and milk-withdrawal times. Protocols should not change until you and your veterinarian have consulted with each other. Producers should start to think about writing down treatment protocols so when they sit down with their **CQM trainer** the proper drug use and withdrawals are established.

Train employees

Once protocols have been established, all employees who are to treat animals must be trained how to identify sick animals and when to treat. All must be shown the proper way to administer medicines to make sure that the products are used safely and effectively. A practical tip to prevent accidental improper use is to store drugs for dry cows and heifers separate from the ones for lactating cows.

Follow route of administration

Read the label and follow the route of administration listed. Different locations on the animal absorb the drug at different rates. Therefore, a change in location can change withdrawal times — sometimes by a matter of days or even months. For example, with penicillin, changing the route of administration from intramuscular to subcutaneous can increase the residue withdrawal time in milk from days to more than a month. Another example is the newly approved EXCEDE® for dairy cattle, one might think moving from the ear to the neck is no big deal, but it's a huge deal. The pharmacology between locations is different and it has a huge impact on the necessary withdrawal times.

Look at dosage

Be sure the animal gets the correct dose based on the animal's body weight. The dosage per body weight appears on the label. Never give more than 10ml of a product in one location. Too much in one place can cause a residue. Be sure to give the drug for the number of days specified on the label. Withdrawal periods start after the last dose of the drug is given. Be aware that different products with the same generic drug name may have different withholding times.

Account for extra-label usage

Work with your veterinarian to establish meat withdrawal times for extra-label use. For any extra-label drug use, your veterinarian will arrange for a special label to be attached to the drug detailing extended meat and milk withdrawal times plus any milk inhibitor testing requirements. There is a credible source for establishing extra-label withdrawal time periods and that is the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank, www.farad.org/.

Keep good records

Avoiding drug residues comes down to good record-keeping. This is where **CQM** has a purpose. It has a systematic way of keeping track of when an animal is treated. Records will include date treated, disease indicated, animal ID, person administering the treatment, drug used, amount used, route of administration, broken needle info and meat- or milk-withholding times.

Identify all treated animals

Be sure to properly identify all animals so that treated animals will be recorded. Another tip which is common on farms is to have some sort of identifier — either leg bands or chalk present as well. A combination of identification methods may be best. It is also highly recommended that you separate treated animals from the milking herd if possible.

Check and recheck

Review all treatment records before culling an animal.

What is a VCPR and do I have one? *This is why a Veterinarian has to visit your operation on an annual basis.*

A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is required for the use of any prescription drug or use of any extra-label drug on the farm.

It is defined as follows: 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.

The veterinarian is familiar enough with the farm to be able to make a diagnosis of medical conditions of the animals on that farm. The practicing veterinarian is available for follow-up in case of a drug reaction or if the therapy does not work.

Routine visits and discussions with your veterinarian are key elements to maintain this relationship.

Over-the-counter Drugs

Just because you buy a pharmaceutical product at the feed store doesn't mean it can be used any way you want. Using over-the-counter (OTC) drugs in a manner that differs from the label is illegal unless it is done by or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian with whom you have a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Only the uses listed on the label are legal for use without veterinary involvement.

Using an OTC drug in an off-label manner also changes the withdrawal time. If there is no withdrawal time listed, that does not mean that there is no withdrawal time if you use the product off-label.

A proper withdrawal period cannot be established without consulting a veterinarian.