



# ON FEED

A newsletter of Dakotaland Feeds

July 22, 2016

## Veterinary Feed Directives

We have talked about this topic before but as we get closer to 2017, understanding of the new antibiotic rules is important on many levels. While these rules were not exactly welcomed or asked for by anyone in the livestock industry, we need to be able to make them work for the best interest of all involved.

The term Veterinary Feed Directive means that any 'medically important' antibiotic will require a veterinarian's permission to use these antibiotics in the feed. The products that the VFD applies to were decided upon by the FDA and their use in human medicine. **The primary products cattle producers need to be concerned with are Aureomycin or generic chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline, AS-**

**700, Tylan, and Pulmotil.** The ionophores and coccidiostats were left off the VFD list and you will not need a VFD for Rumensin, Bovatec, or Deccox. However, if you plan to use them in combination with a VFD product in the previous list, the veterinarian must allow that combination use. And, combination use is considered feeding these products within the same 24-hour period. So, you cannot use Rumensin in the morning and Aureomycin in the evening because they are not approved by the FDA to be fed in combination (and they never have been).

**The rules take effect on January 1, 2017.** Until then, purchase and use of these products as approved is completely legal. After the first of the year, even if you have medicated product on hand, it technically requires a VFD order from a vet in order to legally put the medicated feed in the bunk. Also beginning in January, you will have to provide a VFD order to your feed distributor in order to buy the medicated feed. It is not legal for them to dispense it without having a valid, complete VFD. Your local dealer can have medicated products in their warehouse as long as they have provided the manufacturer with a letter saying they will not sell it without the VFD and have previously registered with the FDA as a VFD distributor.

As a producer, you need to contact the vet to write the VFD order and then provide that VFD to the feed distributor prior to obtaining the medicated feed. Then, you need to feed it according to the directions on your VFD. You cannot get a VFD that says to feed Aureomycin at 1g/100 lbs of BW and then put it in at 350 mg/hd/d because that is not what was on your VFD.

**You can have multiple active VFD orders at the same time.** The expiration date on VFD orders is going to be a maximum of 6 months. Only one pulse-dose of Aureomycin can be on one VFD form. If you have multiple forms, you can obtain as much feed as you have VFD orders for at that time. Your supplier will need to keep track of how much feed they have sold to you to correspond with your VFD orders.

### In a Nutshell

- \*Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule takes effect January 1, 2017
- \*Certain feed-grade antibiotics will require a VFD from a vet, including Aureomycin, oxytetracycline, AS-700, Tylan, and Pulmotil
- \* Producers will need to have the VFD prior to purchasing VFD feed
- \* Producers will need to feed the medicated feed according to VFD
- \*You can have multiple VFDs filled at the same time
- \*You can still use Aureomycin in creep and mineral if you have a VFD
- \*Extra-label use of medicated feeds is not permitted in any case
- \*You need to have a relationship with a vet for them to write a VFD
- \*A vet may write this ahead of time if you have a VCPR

## VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVES

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**You can still use Aureomycin in your creep feed** as long as you have a valid VFD to do so for control of respiratory disease. Your supplier will have to figure out how much Aureo/Bov creep feed your VFD allows you to take. You can still use Aureomycin in your mineral if you have a VFD from your vet and use it for anaplasmosis control purposes and again, the dealer has to figure out how much medicated mineral you can have.

One thing for everyone to be aware of is that **extra-label drug use (ELDU) is not permitted with medicated feeds**. With injectable antibiotics, your veterinarian has the ability to prescribe a dose different than what is on the label or for a use different than what is on the label. That is NOT the case with feed additives. Your veterinarian cannot tell you to use a VFD feed for a use, dose, duration, or combination different than what is on the label approved by the FDA. There are no approvals for Aureomycin for pinkeye, foot rot, uterine infections, or abortion and it cannot be explicitly used for those purposes. Do not ask your veterinarian to write you a VFD for these reasons because they legally cannot do so and even if they do, a feed distributor cannot legally fill that VFD if that is the stated purpose of use. They also cannot write you a VFD to feed Rumensin and Aureomycin together.

**Your veterinarian may write a VFD prior to the cattle entering your yards if you have a vet-client-patient relationship (VCPR)** and they are confident in your ability to use the products appropriately. They are allowed to use their medical judgment to decide when and if the use of VFD feed is appropriate. That means you do not have to wait until Saturday night at 10pm after feeding to call the vet to ask for a VFD for the calves you just fed because they are getting snotty noses and droopy ears. You have the chance to get the VFD ahead of time if you have a working relationship with your vet and then can also get the feed ahead of time if you provide the VFD to your feed dealer. This does mean that you should have a working relationship with a local vet who can feel they have enough knowledge of your operation to write these VFDs for you and that you will use it appropriately. A veterinarian not licensed to practice in the state where the cattle are located cannot write you a VFD. Just because you get a VFD from your vet does not mean you have to use it, but it gives you that option.

**These rules do not have to be the end of the world.** No one in agriculture was pushing to have this implemented. We may consider ourselves lucky to still be able to use them at all. Your best bet at this point is to make sure you have a relationship with a local vet, explain to them how and why you have used the medicated VFD feeds, and start keeping records of which cattle received how much VFD feed and when. It will be more work and it will likely add cost to the system without improving quality or safety of the meat produced. But at this point, it will still be a cost-effective way to keep animals healthy. This process doesn't have to be difficult or painful. It means a little more recordkeeping and paperwork. We should be able to live with that.

*Roxanne Knock, PhD*

### **Things to be thinking about:**

- \* **Get creep feed out for spring-born calves**
- \* Keep mineral in place for the cows on pasture
- \* Feed **Altosid** to control horn fly populations
- \* Pen maintenance as conditions allow
- \* Order wasps for feedlot fly control or ask about **Clarifly** for feed-through fly control in the feedlot
- \* Prepare for heat stress by checking water tanks and supply, providing shade if possible, and wetting pen floors
- \* Talk to your veterinarian about ultrasounding heifers for pregnancy and start feeding or sell the opens
- \* Get your feed storage area ready for silage season and get your inoculant lined up
- \* Consider early weaning if pasture or forage resources are short
- \* Get a pre-conditioning program in place and talk about vaccines, dewormer and treatments with your vet