



ON FEED

A newsletter of Dakotaland Feeds

December 19, 2016

Beating a Dead Horse... VFDs

The Veterinary Feed Directive is almost here. So one more time, we are going to address this topic.

The VFD is being implemented by the FDA. The program basically means that you are going to need a vet's permission to put medicated feed in the bunk for your cattle. The purpose is to assure

judicious use of antimicrobials in livestock by limiting uses to those necessary for animal health and also include veterinary involvement in the process of using these products. The FDA believes that the public health is protected because of the veterinarian's training in how and when to use these products.

The process is supposed to work like this: a producer will contact the vet to write them a VFD to use medicated feed, the vet fills out the form and sends it to the producer and/or feed dealer, the feed dealer distributes the corresponding amount of feed, the producer uses it according to the VFD directions, and then all parties keep their records for 2 years. This does not have to be a difficult process.

It is important that you realize that extra-label use of medicated feed additives is not allowed. This means if a dosage or purpose for use is not approved by the FDA, it is considered illegal. One example would be using Aureomycin to take care of pinkeye or foot rot because those are not approved uses by the FDA. It is illegal for a veterinarian to write you a VFD for that purpose and illegal for your feed dealer to sell it for that purpose. This is also true for combinations. For example, feeding Rumensin and Aureomycin in combination is not legal because those two products are not approved by the FDA to be fed together. Your veterinarian cannot write you a VFD allowing you to do that either. The most common dosages and indications for cattle are listed in the table below.

In a Nutshell:

- * **The VFD is being implemented by the FDA**
- * **The process can be simple**
- * **Extra-label use of feed additives is not allowed**
- * **Rumensin and Aureomycin are not a legal combination**
- * **You need a vet-client-patient relationship to have a valid VFD**
- * **You have options to get legal combinations in the bunk**
- * **This doesn't have to be the end of the world!**

Cattle Products Affected by VFD
Aureomycin, generic CTC
AS-700
Tylan
Pulmotil
Terramycin, generic OTC

Drug	Level	Indication of Use
CTC	350 mg/hd/d	Control of bacterial pneumonia associated with shipping fever complex caused by <i>pasteurella spp</i> susceptible to CTC
CTC	350 mg/hd/d or 0.5 mg/lb BW	Aid in control of active infection of anaplasmosis (<700 lbs or >700 lbs)
CTC	10 mg/lb/d for not more than 5 d	Treatment of bacterial enteritis caused by <i>E. coli</i> and bacterial pneumonia caused by <i>P. multocida</i> susceptible to CTC
Tylan	8-10 g/T to provide 60-90 mg/hd/d	For reduction of incidence of liver abscesses in beef cattle caused by <i>Fusobacterium necrophorum</i> and <i>Actinomyces pyogenes</i>
OTC	0.5-2.0 mg/hd/d	Prevention and treatment of the early stages of shipping fever complex
OTC	10 mg/lb/d for 7-14 d	Treatment of bacterial enteritis and bacterial pneumonia caused by <i>P. multocida</i> susceptible to OTC
AS-700	350 mg/hd/d CTC 350 mg/hd/d sulfamethazine Feed for 28 days	Feed for maintenance of weight gain in the presence of respiratory disease such as shipping fever

BEATING A DEAD HORSE... VFDs

The veterinarian writing your VFD must have a vet-client-patient relationship with you in order to write a legal VFD. This means that the veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making judgements regarding animal health, the vet has knowledge of the animals either by exams and/or visits to your operation, and the vet is available for follow up. The vet has to be licensed in the state where the animals are located. And if you are custom feeding cattle for someone else, the person managing the cattle is the one who needs to have the relationship with the veterinarian and the VFD. You need to have a good relationship with your veterinarian in order for them to be confident that you are following the VFD as you are supposed to do. If you use products improperly and there are residue issues, your vet has liability also.

This affects all species with feed-grade antimicrobials available for use. Combinations allowed by the FDA are listed in the table below. If you haven't read it before, Rumensin and Aureomycin are not an FDA approved combination. This means that putting Rumensin and Aureomycin in the bunk together during the same 24-hr day is illegal and it always has been. In order to be in compliance, you can either switch to Bovatec, which may be a good option if you are only backgrounding calves. You can pull Rumensin out on the days you are using Aureomycin. We have made a product that is Aureo 10g with Bovatec in it, so you can use one supplement and still have an ionophore on board when you use Aureomycin then. If you are getting moderate to high-risk calves, you can plan to use Pulmotil. Pulmotil is basically feed-grade Micotil and also requires a VFD, but has FDA approval to be fed with Rumensin. You have to plan on using Pulmotil though because you are not supposed to give injectable macrolides before using Pulmotil in the bunk. It also has to be within the first 45 days on feed and is a 14-day course of therapy. The last option is to look at water medication. All water-soluble medications will require a veterinary prescription, but it does not matter what is in the water and what is in the feed.

Aureomycin	Aureomycin (CTC)*Deccox
	Aureomycin (CTC)*Cattlyst
	Aureomycin (CTC)*Bovatec
	Aureomycin (CTC)*Sulfamethazine (this is AS-700)
AS-700	No Combination approvals
Tylan	Tylan*Rumensin
	Tylan*Rumensin*Optaflexx
	Tylan*Deccox*Rumensin
	Tylan*Bovatec*MGA
	Tylan*MGA
	Tylan*MGA*Rumensin
	Tylan*MGA*Rumensin*Optaflexx
	Tylan*Rumensin*Zilmax
	Tylan*Rumensin*MGA*Zilmax
Terramycin	Terramycin (OTC)*Bovatec (only liver abscess prevention level)
	Terramycin (OTC)*MGA (only liver abscess prevention level)
Pulmotil	Pulmotil*Rumensin

This rule does not have to be the end of the world. We can plan ahead and get everyone on the same page and have the paperwork filled out and filed and not have to get in a panic about this. If you use the products according to label, keep your VFDs and a record of your feeding, you will be in good shape. Change is hard, not impossible. We can still use these products and they are still effective. We just have to file some more papers to use them. Let us know if (when) you have questions.

Merry Christmas! Thank you for your business!

Roxanne Knock, PhD

What do you need to be thinking about this time of year?

- ** Remember to **HEAT TAPE lines on liquid systems**- this keeps the line fluid. C&R Supply has videos on how to maintain the John Blue pumps at <http://www.crsupply.com/index.php/products/liquid-feed/>
- * Pregnancy check cows and cull opens or problem cows
- * Consider bedding calves and bulls
- * Check with your Feed Consultant to make sure your rations are meeting the calves needs