



Northwest Veterinary Associates, Inc.

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VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE:

Things are changing in the legislation in regards to feeding antibiotics. There have been many questions about the "veterinary feed directive" so I thought I would try to explain the rule a bit better for everyone. As it stands right now, the VFD only applies to medically important antibiotics that are administered in water or feed. At this time, the directive has nothing to do with the "over the counter" injectable antibiotics that are available. As of January 1st, 2017 a farmer will need a written Veterinary Feed Directive from a licensed veterinarian to be able to feed the following antibiotics: Oxytetracycline, Chlortetracycline, and Tylosin. After this VFD is written and signed by the vet, the client will then be able to take the paperwork to local stores and purchase the OTC antibiotics listed on the VFD. Ionophores (Monensin or Lasalocid) will not require a written VFD. In order for a veterinarian to write a VFD, a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be in place and documented. Keep in mind that this rule considers milk replacer to be a feed, so adding oral antibiotics to milk replacer will require a VFD.

We as veterinarians will be going through training to better understand the rules and requirements, and have a meeting in June which should help us all understand the VFD better. We will keep you posted as new information arises, so we all can be prepared. As a side note, remember to update your VCPR for 2016 with your herd health veterinarian if you haven't already done so!!

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

Just a quick blurb to remind everyone that even though the price of milk is making it really hard to make ends meet, I would suggest not cutting back on your vaccination program. I know we are all looking for ways to decrease spending, but remember that the cost of vaccinations is a fraction of the expense of treating (or culling) sick cows. As spring arrives, be thinking about talking with your herd health veterinarian to review your vaccination protocol and be sure you are protecting your herd the best you can. That being said, currently some of the vaccines we sell are on backorder and unavailable, so your vet will have recommendations as to which ones to use as substitutes!

ECONOMY ISSUES/FARMERS MEETING

As stated above, things are looking tough with the current and predicted milk prices. Northwest Veterinary Associates is hosting another Farmers meeting on April 26th, with a bit of a different focus. Jason Karszes is a farm management specialist with the PRO-DAIRY program at Cornell University. He has degrees in farm management and production economics, and his research has focused on financial performance and business management. We look forward to having him come speak to the group, so keep your eyes and ears open as we send out more information about the upcoming meeting!