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NORTHWEST VETS NEWSLETTER

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Residue Prevention: Food Armor Program

Prepared by Dr. Hull

Dairy farmers are held to a very high standard to produce safe meat and milk for the public. There is a new national program that is step above the rest, I am very excited to share it with you. The Food Armor Program requires veterinarians and producer teams to work together to create a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) plan customized to the farms management and employee skills and needs. You, along with your veterinarian of record will do the leg work creating in depth protocols and standard operating procedures. Then, a Food Armor Accredited veterinarian (Dr. Hull, Dr. Wadsworth, and Dr. Linden) will review the program and sign off on everything before it is submitted to the Food Armor group for approval. Not only is this a great way to ensure the milk and meat you ship is free from residues, it also is a great team building exercise for everyone on the farm. Those certified are a step above the rest of the nation's farms that are shipping milk. Farms that have participated in this program have seen up to a \$30 per cow savings in reduced drug usage from tightening protocols and having regular oversight.

Northwest Vets was proud to certify the first farm in Vermont this summer (it was the 13th certified farm in the nation!!), and have since certified several more. Our industry needs all the positive public relations it can get, and I think this type of program is a wonderful opportunity to showcase just how much we care about the products that are shipped from our farms. The State Veterinarian of Vermont helped secure a grant to assist in covering the cost of farm certification. Please contact your herd health veterinarian (or any of the Food Armor Accredited vets listed above) if you are interested in finding out more about program!

Animal Identification: The State of Vermont has changed its animal identification requirements. As of July 1, 2017 (yes, this past July) **all animals leaving a farm must have official identification. That now includes animals being shipped for slaughter, as well as animals moving from one farm to another within the state.** Official forms of identification include the steel ear tags that have a US shield on them (an example would be 13AIN4296) OR an AIN tag. AIN tags have 15 digits with a country code at the beginning (US is 840) and there is also a US shield on them. Long story short, the ear tag must have a US shield on them and all animals leaving the farm must be identified.