



New Rules for Medicated Livestock Feed and Water

On January 1, 2017, a new Food and Drug Administration rule will take effect concerning medication in livestock feed and water. Antibiotics deemed medically important for human use will only be available in livestock feed or in water treatment form with a current VFD. To receive a VFD, you must have an established VCPR with a veterinarian.

What is a VFD?

VFD stands for Veterinary Feed Directive. A medication can only be put into an animal's feed or water under the order of a veterinarian. Records of VFD treatments will need to be kept for two years.

What is a VCPR?

VCPR stands for Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship and indicates you have a current relationship with your veterinarian, and he or she knows you and your animals.

What medications will be affected?

Antibiotics considered medically important for human use will not be available without a VFD.

What changes will I see?

Currently, some pre-mixed bagged and bulk feeds contain antibiotics which will be on the federal VFD list. These antibiotics will be removed from the feed and can only be purchased mixed in the feed with a VFD. Feeds containing an antibiotic on the VFD list will be labeled medicated with a warning the feed requires a VFD. Antibiotics that can be added to water will also be unavailable unless you have a VFD. Check with your feed dealer about the availability of medicated feed or water treatments with a proper VFD.

Injectable forms of those antibiotics will still be available. Other medications and antibiotics not considered medically important for human use such as ionophores and coccidiostats will still be available to mix into feed and to add to water without a VFD.

For more information, contact your veterinarian, Colorado State University Extension office or visit the following links to online resources:

Colorado Pork Producers Council — [Youth Swine Exhibitors' Guide to New Antibiotic Rules](#)

Texas A&M — [The Veterinary Feed Directive \(VFD\) and Related Information For Livestock Producers](#)

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development — [Veterinary Feed Directive](#)