

**Week of November 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**POST ROCK EXTENSION ANSWERS**  
**Neil Cates, Post Rock Extension District Agent – Livestock Production**  
**K-State Research and Extension**

The use of antibiotics in feed for food-producing animals has come under scrutiny over the past few years. This is largely due to growing issues with bacteria developing resistance to antibiotics that are important in treating human infections. Several classes of antibiotics are used to treat disease in both people and animals. To ensure judicious use of shared-use antimicrobials in feed, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has placed these drugs under veterinary supervision. Effective January 1, 2017, medically important feed-grade antimicrobial drugs will no longer be labeled for growth promotion. Many antibiotics now available over the counter for use in feed will require authorization from a veterinarian in the form of a veterinary feed directive (VFD).

***What does a VFD consist of?***

A VFD is a written statement authorizing the use of a medically important antibiotic in or on the feed. (This includes milk and milk replacer.) It is not a prescription. The order contains contact information for the veterinarian and client, location of the animals, order approval date, expiration date, and several other details regarding usage and special instructions.

***How am I going to purchase feed with these antibiotics now?***

To purchase feed containing a medically important antibiotic, the producer must obtain a VFD from a veterinarian licensed to practice in the state in which the animals to be fed reside. The producer and veterinarian must have an ongoing working relationship, referred to as a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR). To initiate a VCPR, the veterinarian must be familiar with the producer's operation, assume responsibility for making medical decisions about the animals involved and have made medically timely visits to the premise. The producer agrees to follow the veterinarian's directions, and the veterinarian must be available for follow up. We are blessed to have excellent veterinarians serving the people across our district. If you do not already have a relationship with one of them established, I encourage you to do so.

***What drugs are effected?***

VFD drugs are antibiotics intended for use in or on animal feed that require supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The most common drugs affected are the tetracyclines, sulfonamides, tylosin, neomycin, and virginiamycin. The classes of drugs not affected are the ionophores, babermycins, bacitracin, tiamulin, and coccidiosis treatments such as Decoxx and Corid.

However, you must obtain a VFD if drugs not affected by the rule are fed in combination with a VFD drug (Rumensin/Tylan). VFD drugs can ONLY be used under the specific FDA approved label directions, which state the indication, dose and duration. Extra label use of feed medication

is not permitted under any circumstances.

One final piece worth noting is record keeping. The veterinarian will make three copies of the VFD, keeping the original and providing a copy to both the feed distributor and the producer. The producer may receive the document in hard copy or electronic form and must keep the order on file for 2 years from the date issued. The document must be provided on request if an FDA inspection occurs.

If you are wanting to learn more information about the Veterinary Feed Directive, the Post Rock Extension District will be hosting a VFD program, in collaboration with the Smith County Farm Bureau, the evening of December 7<sup>th</sup> in Gaylord. K-State Veterinarians will be present to answer questions about the VFD as well as provide information on anaplasmosis, a blood borne disease in cattle. For more information and to register contact your local Post Rock Extension Office or visit our website at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu)

*Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Osborne, Smith, and Mitchell counties. Neil may be contacted at [ncates@ksu.edu](mailto:ncates@ksu.edu) or by calling Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, Osborne 346-2521, Smith Center 282-6823. Visit our website at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu) and follow our blog at: [postrockextension.blogspot.com](http://postrockextension.blogspot.com). Also follow us on Facebook at: Post Rock Extension.*