

Veterinary Feed Directives and the 4-H Livestock Projects

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has amended the new animal drug regulations to implement the veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs section of the Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996. This means that medicated feeds containing a VFD drug will only be able to be purchased under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

All medically important antibiotics approved for use in feed or water will be VFD on January 1, 2017. This veterinarian must be licensed in the state where the animals are located and being fed the VFD feed. A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) must exist that satisfies the requirements of the federally codified VCPR.

What is a VFD?

- A written (nonverbal) statement issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice that authorizes the use of a VFD drug or combination VFD drug in or on an animal feed.
- This written statement authorizes you to obtain and use animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or combination VFD drug to treat your animals only in accordance with the conditions for use approved by the FDA.
- A VFD is also referred to as a VFD order.

Your Responsibilities

- Only feed animal feed containing a VFD drug to animals based on a VFD issued by a licensed veterinarian
- Do not feed a VFD feed to animals after the expiration date on your VFD
- Provide a copy of the VFD order to the feed distributor unless provided by the veterinarian
- Maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of 2 years
- Provide VFD orders for inspection and copying by FDA upon request
- No extra-label use of VFD drugs is allowed
- VFD feeds can only be fed until the expiration date on the VFD
- If your VFD expires prior to the end of your 4-H project, you should contact your veterinarian to get a new VFD order. You should plan ahead as it is against the law to feed the VFD feed past the expiration date.

How to Purchase a VFD feed

- Obtain a VFD order from your veterinarian, then provide the VFD order to your feed distributor
- If you manufacture your own feed, you must have a VFD in order to get the medicated VFD feed ingredients

- If you manufacture feed for other 4-H families, you should be aware that you are acting as a feed distributor and additional requirements apply.

What does professional supervision mean?

- The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis of professional supervision.
- Veterinarians who issue a VFD order must practice veterinary medicine in compliance with all applicable veterinary licensing and practice requirements, including issuing the VFD in the context of a VCPR as defined by the state.
- If applicable VCPR requirements as defined by such state do not include the key elements of a valid VCPR as defined by Federal law, the veterinarian must issue the VFD in the context of a valid VCPR as defined by the Federal law.
- If you do not have a working relationship with a veterinarian, it is important to visit with a local veterinarian. They will also be a great resource for making health and management decisions for your 4-H animals.

How do I know if a drug is a VFD drug?

- All VFD feeds must have the following cautionary statement:
 - Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs do not have this statement.

For more information

For more information, please see the below Food and Drug Administration link.

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm>

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