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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Changes for Use of Drugs in Livestock

Over the past few months there has been more and more in the news concerning the changes for the use of antibiotics in livestock. Just a mere change in anything is a challenge in itself. Accepting and understanding the change is the real hurdle that we need to get over, and this one will be no different. The need for a veterinarian to be involved will be greatly increased. The changes will involve the use of antibiotics used in feed. The following are just some tidbits from an article that appeared in an email from Drovers Cattle Network that was written by Doug Carter. You can read the entire article at <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/news/veterinary-feed-directive-ushers-new-era-transparency>

The federal Veterinary Feed Directive means “the days of no records and verbal treatment protocol are gone.” Dr. Mike Apley, professor of veterinary clinical sciences at Kansas State University, delivered that message to producers and other members of the swine industry Thursday during KSU Swine Day in Manhattan.

“We have never had the legal ability to use feed drugs other than as labeled. We’ve never had that legal opportunity,” Apley said. “So if you’re using a feed antibiotic in a way that’s not specifically allowed on the label, you are breaking the law. That has not been enforced, because how do you know?”

“Now as we move into the Veterinary Feed Directive, a veterinarian is going to have to make an FDA accessible record of what that drug is authorized to be used for, and in follow-up the FDA may go to any site that a VFD copy is at and investigate how it was used. So the transparency is going to be greatly increased.”

During his presentation – titled, “Countdown to the New Feed Directive – What Do We Need to Know?” – Apley told the audience 1978 was the last time the agriculture industry got a new class of antibiotics that is still in use today in food animals. “When do you think we’ll get a new and novel class of antibiotics again for food animals?” Apley asked. The large meeting hall in the K-State Alumni Center went silent. “Yeah, don’t hold your breath. Because if we get them, they are going to the human side.”

The industry needs to keep that fact in mind as it contemplates moving forward once VFD is fully implemented Jan. 1, 2017, Apley said. “We get all wrapped around the axle about being blamed for human things and what’s going on in human medicine ... But the thing we better get over is thinking that’s the only issue and it’s not about protecting the use of these drugs for ourselves in food animals and in veterinary medicine,” Apley said. “Because if you are thinking that isn’t an issue, you’re dead wrong.”



“As of December 2016, a veterinarian will have to authorize any antibiotic use in the feed except for the ionophores (Rumensin, Bovatec, Catalyst), the bambermycins (Gainpro), bacitracin (BMD, Baciferm), and tiamulin (Denegard, used in swine),” Apley said in an article he wrote earlier this year for K-State’s Beef Cattle Institute. “All other antibiotics used in the feed are classified as “medically important” (based off of importance in human medicine) and will require a veterinary feed directive (VFD), which requires knowledge of the client’s operation.” A VFD will be required for any type of medicated feed containing a medically important antibiotic, including medicated milk replacer.

All water antibiotics will require a prescription, even for label uses. Apley predicted water soluble antibiotics likely will disappear from the shelves of local farm supply stores rather than merchants becoming authorized to dispense drugs on the basis of a prescription. Medicated milk replacer and medicated feeds if they contain a medically important antibiotic also likely will be in scarce supply at the farm store, he said.

The biggest takeaway for producers in this discussion, Apley said, is to have a veterinarian that knows their operation. And a focus needs to be placed on antibiotic stewardship.

Dispensing antibiotics in feed (74 percent) and water (21 percent) account for about 95 percent of medically important antibiotics sold by kilograms with a food animal label in the U.S., Apley said. And about 98 percent of medically important drugs are sold over the counter, requiring no veterinary authorization. “That does not pass the front page of the newspaper test, and that’s one of the big drivers of the VFD,” Apley said.

“Something I hear from people is, ‘Well, agriculture is getting all the blame,’ and that couldn’t be further from the truth. They are taking a really hard look at themselves in human medicine, too.” Three factors will drive the use of antibiotics in the future. Regulation, legislation and retailers. When it comes to use of antibiotics in food animals, some retailers believe there are only two options: Stick with the status quo or never use them, Apley said. “Our job is to give them a very responsible place in the middle.”

Pesticide and Fertilizer Dates

The sessions are as follows: Monday, February 8, 2016 at North Adams High School. This session will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Fertilizer training until 7:00 p.m. Then we will break for pizza followed by the pesticide re-certification from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro. This session begins at 10:00 a.m. with Fertilizer training until noon. Then we will break for pizza followed by pesticide re-certification from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m.

Monday, February 22, 2016 at Southern Hills Board Office on Hamer Rd in Georgetown. This session begins at 10:00 a.m. with Fertilizer training until noon. Then we will break for pizza followed by pesticide re-certification from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m.

Remember pre-register early. You can also e-mail Cindy at kratzer.11@osu.edu. Please mail payment to the Brown Co. Extension office at 325 W. State St. Bldg. B Georgetown, OH 45121.