



Veterinary Feed Directives

Starting January 1, 2017, Veterinary Feed Directives (VFDs) will be required to purchase and use feed grade antibiotics for cattle.

- The cattle drugs affected by this rule will be:
 - chlortetracycline's (CTC, Aureomycin),
 - oxytetracycline's (OTC, Terramycin),
 - tylosin (Tylan) and
 - tilimicosin (Pulmotil).
- These antibiotics are no longer allowed to be used for growth promotion purposes.
- These antibiotics are allowed to be used for the treatment and prevention of disease as specified on the label, no extra label use is allowed.
 - For example, CTC cannot be used to prevent pinkeye, or to flush heifers prior to breeding.
- Ionophores (Rumensin, Bovatec, Cattlyst) will not require a VFD and can still be used for growth promotion.
- You must have a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship for a veterinarian to write you a VFD. The veterinarian must be licensed in the state where the livestock are fed.
- The VFD your veterinarian writes will specify how you can feed the antibiotic to treat or prevent disease.
- Your veterinarian can write you a VFD for 6 months at a time (45 days for Pulmotil).
- You can purchase your feed grade antibiotics wherever you like. You will need a copy of the VFD from your veterinarian to bring to the distributor of the antibiotic, or your veterinarian will need to send a VFD to the distributor of the antibiotic before you pick it up.
- VFDs can be filled out and shared electronically with you and the distributor of the antibiotic.
- If Tylan is to be fed in combination with Rumensin, the VFD must be written for the combination.
- The vet, the distributor, and the producer must keep hard copies of the VFDs for 2 years.
- Minerals that contain antibiotic (such as CTC for anaplasmosis) will be available but will require a VFD written for the prevention of anaplasmosis.
- Milk replacers that contain antibiotic will require a VFD since they are considered a feed.
- Water soluble antibiotics will require a prescription (like injectable drugs) instead of a VFD.
- The VFD rule has no effect on injectable antibiotics that are available over the counter (without a Rx), these will continue to be available as they were before.



Quality Liquid Feeds
3586 Hwy 23 North
Dodgeville, WI 53533
1-800-236-2345
www.qlf.com

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