

Topic of the Month

VFD Compliance

Beginning January 1, 2017, the law mandated veterinary feed directives for feed grade antibiotics that are considered medically important for humans. The VFD document is written by a veterinarian in triplicate, with a copy given to the feed mill, the producer, and one copy retained by the vet. It states how the antibiotic is to be fed according to the label directions.

Since that time, the FDA has begun inspecting the directives for compliance with the regulations. In August, the agency released its first report detailing its findings.

In fiscal year 2016, 57 inspections were conducted. The number increased to 130 in FY 2017 and 269 in FY 2018. Of the 269 inspections in 2018, 230 required no action, 38 suggested voluntary action, and only one required official enforcement action.

A few key findings include:

- Feed distributor errors involved feed mixing, labeling, not actually following the feed directive, or not notifying the FDA of intent to distribute VFD feeds.
- Veterinarians most common errors were forgetting a signature or omitting information such as specific instructions or withhold times.
- Producer compliance in the inspections conducted was 100%, meaning that producers had followed instructions for appropriate feeding for classes of animals, duration of feeding, special instructions, and expiration.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of August 31, 2019

Corn	\$3.58/bu
Soybean Meal	\$298.30/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$17.62/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$105.00/cwt

Practice News & Upcoming Events

- Dr. Dan Zawisza and his wife Bethany, along with their boys welcomed a new addition last month. Elijah Ethan was born August 22. Mom and baby are doing well.
- Maple Valley Cattle Company will be hosting a workshop on the basics of grazing and pasture management on Friday, September 20, from 9am to noon, featuring forage specialist Dr. Jessica Williamson. Flyers are available at the office for more information.
- We have two trucks for sale. There is a blue Ford Ranger with a cap on the back. It will not pass inspection but would make a good farm truck. We also have a grey Ford Ranger with a Portavet unit on the back. If interested, please call the office for details and pricing.

In The News

- A mid-August fire ignited by a welding spark has closed a Tyson foods plant in Holcomb, KS, indefinitely. The square footage of the damaged area was relatively small, however, the fire impacted critical operating systems. Tyson says the plant closure will last for several months.
- Live Real Farms, owned by DFA, has released a product that is 50% lactose-free milk and 50% plant-based beverage. Understandably, the product has drawn mixed reactions from producers. Some farmers feel that this represents innovation in an effort to increase fluid milk sales and capture a piece of the plant-based beverage market, while others feel that it is a sell-out by the co-op.
- Dairy has managed to benefit from the pumpkin spice craze that grips consumers every fall. Pumpkin spice varieties of dairy products including ice cream, creamers, yogurt, milk, cheese, cottage cheese, and cream cheese are all available for sale.