

Veterinary Feed Directive: What does this mean for hoof trimmers?

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



What is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)?

The FDA is implementing a major change related to antibiotics taking effect in January 2017. Under the new ruling:

- All antibiotics currently labeled to be given via feed or water will no longer be over the counter.
- Antibiotics meant to be included in the feed will require a VFD written by a vet in order to be purchased by the farmer.
- Antibiotics labeled to go in the water will require a prescription.

How does this change affect Hoof Trimmers?

Powdered antibiotics are often used when treating hairy heel warts. Tetsol™ 324 and Lincomycin Powder are two common products.



Once the VFD goes into effect in 2017:

- Products will require a prescription and will no longer be available over the counter.
- A veterinarian can only issue a prescription to the owner of the animals.
- Hoof trimmers will no longer be able to purchase these products since they don't own the animals they are working with.
- Since the products require a prescription, the quantity sold will be more regulated.

What can Hoof Trimmers do to prepare?

Several alternatives remain once the antibiotics become restricted.

- First option: inform your clients of the powdered antibiotics you use so they can obtain a prescription from their veterinarian. Since the antibiotics will be used extra label, there will be milk and meat withholds. The veterinarian will provide directions for application on the product label.
- Second option: switch to the injectable tetracycline products, such as LA200™ or Agrimycin. These injectables will remain over the counter for the time being, and are a viable alternative.
- Third option: is to not use any topical antibiotics. Many hoof trimmers are impressed with the results they see from using topical copper, zinc, formaldehyde or acid solutions. You should consult your hoof specialist to find a product that will work for you.



ANIMART's Role

The veterinarians at ANIMART are actively educating clients about the upcoming regulatory changes. They are prepared for the approaching label modifications and are ready to issue prescriptions for topical antibiotics. If there are herds you currently work with who would be interested in getting a prescription through ANIMART, please feel free to contact your representative.

Veterinarian Feed Directive: Hoof Trimmers



Veterinary Feed Directive: What does this mean for producers?

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



What is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)?

The FDA has changed the guidelines regarding antibiotics in feed or water to take effect in January 2017. Under the new ruling:

- All antibiotics labeled to go into feed or water will no longer be over the counter and will fall under veterinary oversight. Antibiotics labeled to go into the water will require a prescription, while antibiotics that go into the feed will require a VFD.
- **A prescription will remain valid for 1 year. A VFD will be applicable for 6 months and has to be written by a veterinarian.**
- A feed mill will need a VFD in order to sell feed-grade antibiotics or medicated feeds. Additionally, all growth promotion labels will be removed and any such use will not be allowed. An antibiotic is considered a growth promotant if it is fed at a low dose for an extended period of time. Any extra label use of a feed-grade antibiotic is illegal, so all usage will be restricted to the label directions for treatment or control of specific diseases for a limited duration.

How will change impact Producers?

Antibiotics such as Aureomycin Crumbles and medicated milk replacers that contain neomycin or tetracycline will require a VFD in order to purchase them after December 31, 2016. VFDs will not apply to products with coccidiostats. If you wish to use these products, your veterinarian will have to determine if there is a definite need for them.

- As an example: if incoming cattle frequently become ill upon arrival, a veterinarian could write a VFD for inclusion of tetracycline in the feed for a short period of time to prevent pneumonia. Once a vet writes a VFD, a feed mill could sell the requested antibiotic or add it to the feed.
- However, if the cattle are healthy and there has been no history of disease, a veterinarian could not write a VFD and a feed-grade antibiotic could not be purchased.

Medicated feeds currently labeled "for increased feed efficiency or weight gain" will no longer bear these claims. **This does not include feeds with coccidiostats such as rumensin, monensin, lasalocid, Corid™, Bovatec or deccox as these are not antibiotics.**

Any antibiotics added to drinking water will require a prescription starting January 2017. This would include antibiotics such as Tetsol™ 324 and sulfas. Importantly, if your hoof trimmer uses a powdered tetracycline for hairy heel warts, you will have to supply the tetracycline as it will no longer be over the counter. Since hoof trimmers don't own the cows they work on, veterinarians cannot legally write a prescription to them. Ear implants will not be affected by the new guidelines. **All injectable antibiotics currently over the counter will remain so for the time being.**

What can Producers do to prepare?

If you are currently using antibiotics in the feed or water, you should let your veterinarian know what products you are using, what you are using them for, and which feed mill you purchase from. Your veterinarian will then decide if the antibiotic is needed. This will give your veterinarian time to prepare a VFD and/or a prescription, and ensure you can receive any necessary antibiotics in a timely manner.

ANIMART's Role

ANIMART is committed to the success of producers. We strive to limit antibiotic use unless necessary and actively promote the health and wellbeing of our clients' animals by preventing disease whenever possible. ANIMART veterinarians are working with producers to ensure they are prepared for the upcoming changes, and will soon be able to write VFDs. These VFDs will take effect on January 1, 2017 so clients won't encounter delays in receiving necessary antibiotics at the beginning of the year. We are well equipped to deal with the necessary paperwork for prescriptions and VFDs. If you have any questions, contact us at any time.

