

Dairy News

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What is “Food Armor” and Why Should I Participate in it?

“Food Armor” is a program put together by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association after Wisconsin led the nation in repeat drug violations in meat in 2009. The program is a proactive non-regulatory way to improve consumer confidence in dairy and beef products. Food Armor and PDPW has paired up to form “What Matters”.

“What Matters” is veterinarians and producers working together to ensure safe meat and milk. One out of 40 cull dairy animals sent to harvest are condemned. Approximately 70% of dairy animals with violative tissue residues are condemned prior to testing.

The top 3 reasons for tissue violations are:

1. No on-farm treatment records
2. Increased dosage without adjusting withdrawal times
3. No individual animal ID

Currently milk testing regulations require that we test only for the following drugs:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pencillin G | 4. Cephapirin |
| 2. Ceftiofur | 5. Ampicillian |
| 3. Cloxacillin | 6. Amoxicillian |

The top milk violator drugs following a government study which tested for other drugs beyond the six listed above was:

1. Florfenicol (Nuflor)
2. Tulathronycin (Draxxin)

Current milk testing regulations are likely to change. These two drugs are not approved for lactating animals.

There are six sections to Food Armor to ensure food safety and responsible medication use on farms.

1. VCPR (Veterinarian/client/patient relationship)
2. Drug List
3. Protocols
4. SOP's (Standard operating procedures)
5. Records
6. Oversight



Food Armor requires veterinarians and producers to work seamlessly. Veterinary oversight allows producers to evaluate their drug use. Producers may find economic gains when using fewer drugs (label treatments) with shorter withdrawals resulting in fewer days out of milk production. Animal welfare issues may be addressed by identifying and stopping treatment of the incurable, which will reduce pain and suffering of the animal, while increasing food safety. **Consumers will continue to request more information on how and where their food is produced. Food Armor allows those in food production to remain diligent to food safety and consumer confidence. Come to our client meeting Jan. 21, 2016 and hear Dr. Dave Rhoda explain how Food Armor works.**

- Dr. Scott Wiley

Changes in Rules of How Antibiotics can be fed to Cattle - Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

By the end of 2016 the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) will be in place. This rule will affect how antibiotics are fed to animals. Some affected antibiotics include neomycin, CTC (Chlortetracycline), and AS700. A VFD feed will only be used under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Producers will have to obtain a VFD order from their veterinarian to get the VFD feed. Dr. Dick Wallace will inform you of the changes the VFD is creating for our industry.

Bring a list of drugs your farm uses to the meeting. This would include any drugs going into your feeds. We will explain to you how and if these drugs can be used in the upcoming year.

- Dr. Scott Wiley

Please Join us for our Client Meeting

Jan. 21, 2016 @ Rendezvous (E896 County Road N, Luxemburg)

Dr. Dave Rhoda – Food Armor – 10:00 -12:00

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00

Dr. Dick Wallace – Veterinary Feed Directive – 1:00-3:00

Mark your Calendars! More information to come.....

Quote of the month:

“The Farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't be a farmer”
-Will Rodgers



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