

WORD FROM THE HERD

Louisa Veterinary Service

Summer 2022

Housekeeping Notes



- ❖ Farm calls have gone up by \$5 per call effective July 1, 2022.
- ❖ Professional fees increased by \$10 per hour. The minimum charge will be 15 minutes. This change was also effective July 1, 2022.
- ❖ Our suppliers are now charging us \$10 per drop shipment. We will be passing that cost along to our drop ship customers. The charge for on-line prescription orders will remain at \$10 and VFD prescriptions will remain at \$20.
- ❖ Please see the following article for important changes in over-the-counter medications.

FAQ's Regarding the FDA's Upcoming Guidance



What does the new guidance say?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration finalized guidance for industry (GFI) #263 to outline the process for animal drug sponsors **to voluntarily change the approved marketing status of certain medically important antimicrobial drugs from over-the-counter (OTC) to prescription (Rx)**. Once this change is made, these important drugs can only be used in animals under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Is the new guidance different from the VFD's that currently exist?

Yes. Under GFI #213, animal drug sponsors worked with FDA to voluntarily change OTC medically important antimicrobials used in the **feed or drinking water of food-producing animals to veterinary feed directive (VFD) or Rx** marketing status and eliminate the use of these products for production purposes (e.g., growth promotion). With the successful implementation of GFI #213, approximately 96 percent of medically important antimicrobials used in animals are now under veterinary oversight.

What are some examples of the common drugs that are currently over the counter (OTC) that will soon be prescription?

Penicillin

Tetracyclines- including LA-200 and 300, Bio-Mycin 200, and Noromycin 200 and 300

Amoxicillin



How will producers be able to get prescriptions for these drugs from a veterinarian?

Step 1: You will need a valid **Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR)** with your veterinarian. In a nutshell this means the veterinarian needs to have either examined the animal(s) that are ill OR he/she should have been out to your farm within the last year for a farm visit and has consulted with you on the sick animal(s) and deemed one of these drugs necessary for treatment.

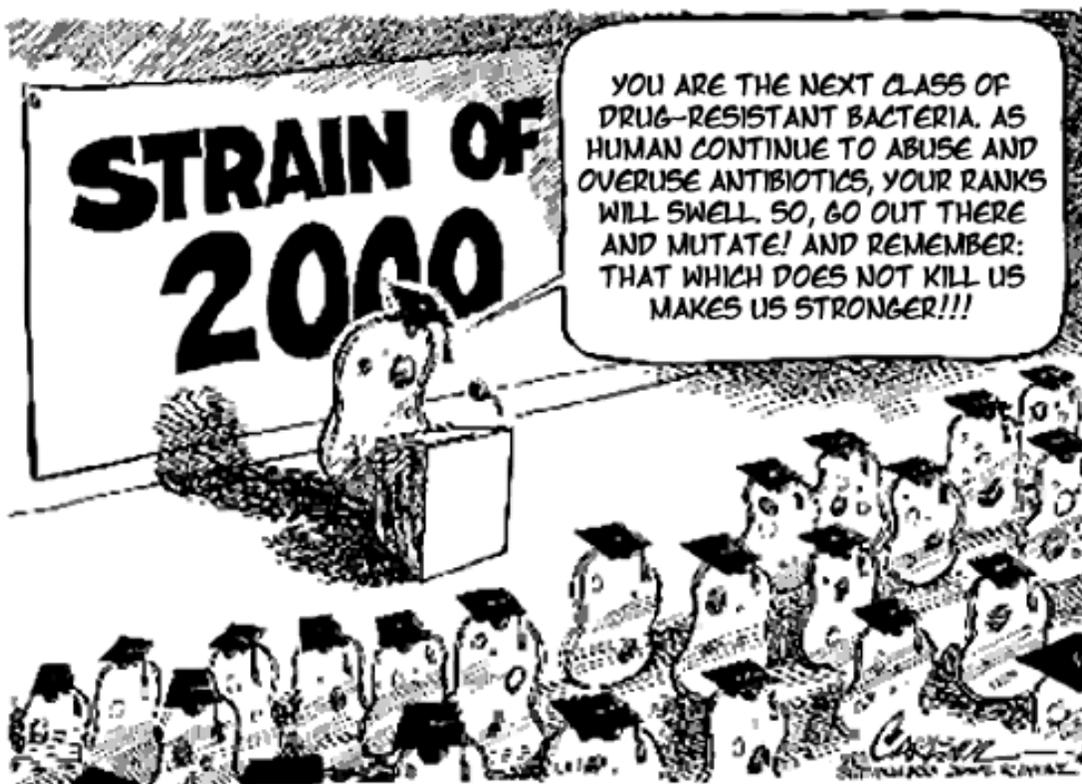
Step 2: You may be asked by your veterinarian to provide information about the sick animal(s) and/or to provide a photo/video to help him/her gain insight about the medical problem you are having with your animal(s). Getting a consult via tele-health is going to have a cost, this will likely be determined by the complexity of the problem and if a farm visit by the veterinarian is required.

Step 3: Picking up drugs after business hours- some of these drugs, i.e. Penicillin are refrigerated, so arranging a pick-up during business hours will be important. Veterinarians typically only do emergency calls on the weekends and often don't have staff to be able to deal with medicine pick-ups after hours. As we say in the veterinary world: "Your failure to plan does not constitute our emergency."

Why is the FDA implementing such a policy?

Antimicrobial resistance is recognized as a growing global threat. In 2014, the White House announced the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB), underscoring the need to address antimicrobial resistance. FDA has and continues to be integral in these efforts.

Antimicrobial use in animals can contribute to the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria that may be transferred to humans, thereby reducing the effectiveness of antimicrobial drugs for treating human disease. FDA CVM has developed a multipronged strategy designed to limit or reverse resistance arising from the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals, while continuing to ensure the availability of safe and effective antibiotics for use in animals and humans.



\$ TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR EXPENSIVE HAY \$



- As many of you know, hay prices are going to be a **record high** this year due to hugely increased fuel and fertilizer prices. The average price of a round bale now is approaching \$80 and square bales are right around \$12.
- Now is an excellent time to **downsize** your herd or flock! Animals of all species are selling well at the livestock markets. If you have older or non-productive animals OR young animals approaching weaning age, it's a good time to move them along. Not only are they adding to your feed cost, they are not giving anything back to the operation. Also, keeping young animals in your herd for too long may be a problem if they get bred as juveniles.

- If you reduce your stocking density now, your pasture and/or forage will last a lot longer heading into the winter. We are having decent rainfall this year, compared to previous summers, which means we should have a longer grazing season.



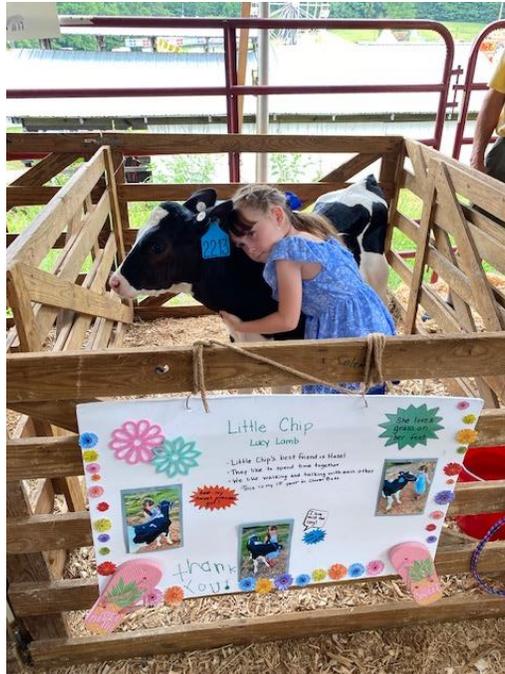
- User lesser quality hay or feeding goats and sheep round bales are **NOT** good options. If you feed animals low quality hay they will be starved for protein/energy and the product they give you will suffer for it. The babies they wean will be smaller, the fleece they produce will be brittle, and the milk they make will be lesser in quantity and quality. You truly do get out of an animal what you put **into** it!
- If you are having trouble finding enough hay you can increase the amount of grain you are feeding to the animals for a short amount of time. Grain **DOES NOT** replace hay in a ruminant animal's diet! It is a supplemental feed only. Protein tubs are also a supplement if you have forage/hay of lesser quality.

- If you are able, contact your hay supplier now and purchase your hay for the winter now. Second cutting hay is being made now and that is the prime cutting for top quality. Be sure your hay is properly stored, or it will lose its nutrients.
- Do NOT try to force your animals to eat the refuse hay. Sheep and goats will always waste about 40% of the hay you feed them. Try to feed hay off the ground for them in low waste feeders but use the refuse for bedding or compost. You can minimize hay waste for cattle by unrolling bales of hay.



- In conclusion, please remember when you own ruminant animals, it is your responsibility to take care of them, which means providing them good quality forage. If you get in trouble with animal control for not properly feeding your livestock, the judge does not care how much hay cost!

It's Fair Season...



- This was Lucy's first year as a cloverbud! She took her Holstein heifer "Little Chip" to the Madison County Fair and had a wonderful experience.
- Thank you to all our clients who participate and help run these small county fairs! I know it's exhausting, but you're helping be "Agvocates" in our community.
- Please consider attending a county fair and supporting a 4-H or FFA student in the sale, either of an animal or an item. Louisa Veterinary Service has been fortunate to be able to buy some animals this year. Your support goes a long way in the education of that child!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sheep and Goat Producer's Meeting - Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 6:00 PM

Location: Orange/Madison Co-op
13323 James Madison Highway
Orange, VA 22960

RSVP: Serena Humphrey serena.humphrey@orangemadison.com or
540-672-2977

Speaker: Dr. Melinda McCall

Topic: Tele-health and Preparing Your Farm in Cooperation with the
FDA Changes Happening in 2023

FREE WEBINAR: August 23 and 24 from 12:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Topic: TICKS – WHAT ARE THEY? HOW THEY CAN AFFECT YOUR
LIVESTOCK, AND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THEM

Register: <https://www.ncba.org/events/webinars>

If you have questions about this educational event, please contact NCBA's Center for Public Policy.

Dr. Kathy Simmons
Chief Veterinarian
ksimmons@beef.org

Chase DeCoite
Director of Animal Health and Food Safety Policy
cdecoite@beef.org