

Assuring Quality Care for Animals 2020

2020: GPP's 1, 3, 6

Use of Appropriate VCPR for Decision-Making: Good Production Practice #1

What is a VCPR?

A VCPR is a Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship. The relationship requires that the Veterinarian has knowledge of the animal and has discussed its' health with the owner. VCPRs are required for the producer to use prescription drugs or extra-label use.

In order for this relationship to exist the following must be true (According to FDA regulations):

- The Veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgements regarding the health of the animal and the need for treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian: and when
 - There is sufficient knowledge of the animal by the veterinarian to provide a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. Meaning the veterinarian has recently seen the keeping and care of the animals; and when
 - The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.

Over-the-counter Drugs (OTC):

Drugs which can be purchased lawfully without the use of a veterinarian.

- Feed Directive or Prescription – purchase OTC drugs and follow label directions for use. These drugs can be obtained at clinics, feed stores, and through animal health industry representatives.
- OTC drugs have exact instructions on dosage, administration, withdrawal times and storage.
- A producer should consult with their veterinarian when using OTC drugs.
- According to law, producers must follow the label instructions or the veterinarian instructions exactly.

Prescription Drugs (R_x):

Drugs which require a veterinarian's written permission for use.

- When prescribing a veterinarian will provide a form describing dosage, administration and withdrawal times.
- Labels on prescription drugs always state "CAUTION" and "Federal law restricts use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian".
- If a bottle states "For Veterinary Use Only" that does not mean it is a prescription drug. That means it is used for animals and not humans.

Types of Drug Use:

Label Use – using the drug exactly as stated on the label.

- Medicated feeds may only be used as directed by the label.
- It is ILLEGAL for a veterinarian or producer to use feed in a manner other than what is directly stated on the label.

Off Label – use of a drug by a producer in a manner other than what is stated on the label without guidance from a veterinarian under the extra-label policy.

- It is ILLEGAL to use an OTC drug for anything other than intended unless directed by a vet.

Extra label – Extra-label drug use means using a drug in a way that is not in accordance with the approved drug labeling.

- When labeled drugs are not available for the animals care a vet has the ability to prescribe extra-label use.

- Only a vet with a VCPR for the operation can direct extra-label use.
- The producer and Vet accept added responsibility when using drugs in an extra-label manner.
- Extra-label drug use under the direction of a licensed vet is used in livestock production when alternatives are not available.

OTC used in an extra-label manner requires that:

- A VCPR exists
- Adequate instructions have been given by the vet and are followed by the caretaker
- A withdrawal time has been assigned by the vet.
- Animal Identity of the treated animal is maintained.
- The treatment is recorded, and records are maintained.

Veterinarian Feed Directive (VFD) - a category specifically for new antimicrobial drugs used in the feed to treat disease

- Antimicrobial – a drug used to treat a microbial infection.
- Extra-label use is NOT permitted.

Compounding- mixing two injectable FDA approved drugs in the same syringe/bottle.

- Necessary in some cases to assure recovery.
- Withdrawal times are a concern.
- Guidelines similar to extra-label use are followed
- It is ILLEGAL to compound a drug without a veterinarian's professional opinion.

Residue – presence of a drug in an animal product or by-product

- Any substance that is prohibited under any federal or state law.
- Any drug used in any manner not authorized under any federal or state law.
 - Examples in milk/meat
 - Poor animal identification
 - Treatment not recorded
 - Extra-label use
 - Medicated feed
 - What animals might be high risk for drug residue?
 - Cull breeding animals
 - Animals that have received an extra-label medication prescribed by a vet
 - Young animals such as veal calves or feeder pigs sold as roasters
 - Animals exhibited at shows or fairs.

Drug Residue Avoidance & Testing:

- Identification and documentation of all treated animals will reduce the chance for a drug residue to enter the food chain.
- The exhibitor and producer must be diligent in recording and maintaining an accurate log of medical and therapeutic treatment of each animal.
- If a producer is not confident that the animal to be marketed is drug-free a residue test can be conducted.
- If residue is found there are SEVERE consequences for producers and youth exhibitors.

Regulatory Agencies responsible for drug residue limits and testing:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Use Antibiotics Responsibly: Good Production Practice #3

Use Antibiotics Responsibly

Responsible use assures food animal producers deliver a safe, wholesome product to the retail case. Knowing what is acceptable and not acceptable when it comes to using antibiotics will guarantee your herd/flock health program will maintain efficiency of production without overuse of antibiotics. Using your VCPR will provide you with guidance on when to use antibiotics.

Antibiotics in Food Animal Production

Reasons for food producers to use antibiotics:

1. To treat animals for clinical illness administered through Injections or Orally in feed or water
2. Antibiotics are used as sub-therapeutic doses, administered in the feed or water, as a preventative in animals that:
 - a. Have been or are currently exposed to infections, or;
 - b. If there is a clinical outbreak pattern of disease in operations at a given time of year or given production stage

Principles and Guidelines for Responsible Antibiotic Use

Five principles to guide food animal producers so they will use antibiotics responsibly assuring a safe wholesome food product for consumers

1. Take appropriate steps to decrease the need for application of antibiotics considering all alternatives.
 - a. Consult with vet by using your VCPR
 - i. Using your VCPR you should develop a herd/flock health plan. A healthy herd/flock will reduce the need for excessive antibiotics use.
 - b. Proper sanitation, management, biosecurity, and vaccinations will decrease the use of antibiotics.
2. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of all uses of antibiotics
 - a. Producers should take into consideration animal health, welfare, environmental impact, and food safety implications of antibiotic use.
 - b. Antibiotic use could result in bacterial resistance which could have a health impact on humans that can affect the public image of the food animal industry
 - c. Consider all other alternatives

If an antibiotic is necessary:

- Antibiotic use should be minimized by treating only for as long as needed for the desired response to the infection
 - Vet should be consulted if you are unsure if you should use an antibiotic
- In some cases there may be a need for preventative antibiotic therapy which will need to be assessed regularly
 - FDA approves food animal drugs based on safety and potential antibiotic resistant bacteria
3. Use antibiotics only when they provide measurable benefits for the health and welfare of the animal
 - a. Evaluate antibiotic use in your animals and determine the measurable benefits of all antibiotics
4. Implement management practices described for responsible use of animal health products into your daily routine
 - a. “Assuring Quality Care for Animals”

- i. A violative drug residue is not the same as antibiotic resistance and both should be taken seriously.
- 5. Follow the responsible antibiotic use guidelines and maintain a current veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR)
 - a. Antibiotics should be used for treatment when there is an appropriate disease that needs to be treated. Look at management practices that may result in a reoccurring outbreak.
 - i. Administer only when necessary and give to the smallest amount of animals needing treatment for the least amount of time.
 - b. Consult with your veterinarian if diseases are not improving after standard antibiotic use.
 - c. Mixing injectable or oral medications by a producer is illegal.

Establish Effective Animal Identification, Medication Records and Withdrawal Times:

Good Production Practice #6

Record keeping is a tool that has become increasingly important. It is the first and most reliable method of disease surveillance for the food animal industry. Consumers gain confidence in their food supply when producers document management practices that provide a safe and wholesome food supply. This process begins with identifying all animals.

Animal Identification

Methods of identification are different for each of the animal species. Identification methods include photographs, paint brands, electronic ID tag, retinal scan, iris scan, nose print, or DNA sample. More permanent identification methods are things like being registered to a breed association, ear notch, tattoo, retinal scan, or DNA sample.

Identification Methods

- National ID Program Resources
 - Sheep and goat are the only animals that require mandatory identification. National ID progress updates can be found at:
 - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>
 - <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/animalid/>
- Premises Identification
 - This is the process of registering a location where food animals are raised, housed or pass through during commerce.
 - Once registered, a standardized Premises location number (PIN) is assigned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The standardized PIN differs from the state-assigned Location Identification Number.

During natural or animal disease disasters Premises Identification Numbers will support:

- Faster traceback capabilities during disease outbreaks
 - Faster determination of the extent of an outbreak
 - Faster implementation of disease control measures
 - Business planning to diminish any effects of a disease outbreak
 - Better communications to producers in areas affected by disasters
- Scrapie Identification for Sheep and Goats

Animals that must have a scrapie identification tag?

 - All sheep and goats, including lambs and kids moving within Ohio for exhibition, must be identified with an official USDA approved ear tag or tattoo when they leave the farm to go to an exhibition. All sheep and goats including wethers must be identified with an

official USDA approved ear tag or tattoo and have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) if they are purchased outside of Ohio and enter Ohio to be used for exhibition or breeding purposes.

What type of records do I need to keep?

- All ewes, ewe lambs, rams, ram lambs, goat bucks, does and kids are identified by the breeder when you purchase them. A producer or youth exhibitor is required to keep the following records for a minimum of 5 years
 - Name & address of breeder or producer along with the official USDA ID on all sheep and goats purchased
 - Name and address of the buyer along with the official USDA ID of all sheep and goats you sell (except wethers to an Ohio resident).

DO NOT REMOVE EAR TAGS! It is a federal offense to remove any USDA tags.

Medication and Treatment Records

Food animal producers are required to keep medication and treatment records according to FDA Compliance Policy Guide, “Proper Drug Use and Residue Avoidance by Non-veterinarians”. All youth exhibitors in Ohio must fill out a Drug Use Notification (DUNF) before exhibiting an animal at a fair.

Treatment records should include:

- Individual animal identification, Date treated, Name of product administered, Amount of drug administered (dosage), Route and location of administration, Withdrawal period, Date Withdrawal Complete, Person who administered the product.

Identification and Medication Records

Exhibitors are required by Ohio Law to keep records for 1 year. Sheep/Goat exhibitors are required by federal law to keep records for 5 years.

- Swine, Poultry and Rabbits are recommended to keep records for 1 year.
- Beef, Dairy Beef are recommended to keep records for 2 years.
- Sheep, Goats, Dairy Cows and Heifers are recommended to keep records for 5 years.

Withdrawal Time

- This is the period of time that must pass between the last medication treatment and the time the animal will be harvested or will produce milk and egg products to be used for human consumption.
- Follow withdrawal time direction on the label or as prescribed by your veterinarian.
- To avoid violations:
 - Do not market animals for food until the withdrawal time has passed
 - Use only medications approved for the species being treated and do exactly as the label directs or as prescribed by the veterinarian.
 - If in doubt rely on the VCPR for questions and concerns and conduct a drug residue test
- Calculating withdrawal times for meat and lactating animals
 - MEAT – animals harvested as soon as the withdrawal time is complete
 - LACTATING – Milk from the first milking after completions of the withdrawal time must be discarded. Even though the withdrawal time may have been complete at the time of the first milking. All milk from the first milking must be treated as having a drug residue. The second milking will have cleared the withdrawal period and is acceptable.