

BEEF, DAIRY & FORAGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

NORTHEAST TEXAS CATTLEMAN'S CONFERENCE

The Northeast Texas Cattleman's Conference will be held on Wednesday, **January 25, 2017** at the Carroll Green Civic Center, 602 South McAllister Street, Quitman, Texas. **Please RSVP by January 18, 2017** to your County Extension Office to guarantee lunch.

The program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Counties of Wood, Rains, Camp, Upshur, and Van Zandt.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the Program starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. The cost for registration is \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch, refreshments, handouts and CEUs.

Topics for the program include:

- Winter Feeding and Supplementation Basics for Cow-Calf Operations
- Mineral Supplementation: What's Right for My Operation
- Anaplasmosis and Tics
- Proper Vaccination Scheduling and Hornfly Control.

There will be 3 CEUs given for TDA Private Applicator License (1 General and 2 IPM).

UPPER SABINE COW-CALF CLINIC

The Upper Sabine Cow-Calf Clinic will be held on **March 24, 2017** at the Van Zandt County Fairgrounds (**Please note change in location**). This program is provided by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Offices in Rains, Van Zandt, Wood, and Kaufman Counties. Topics include: 300 Day Grazing Strategies, Ultra-sounding Cattle, and Alternative Marketing Strategies, i.e., All Natural vs. Grass Fed vs. Conventional Methods.

The cost of the clinic is \$20.00 per person and includes a lunch and handouts. CEUs will also be given for those that hold a Private Applicators License.

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TRI-COUNTY PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING



A Tri-County Pesticide Applicator Training will be held on **Friday, March 3, 2017** at the Rains County AgriLife Extension and Conference Center in Emory, Texas. This training will be for those individuals that want a license to buy state-limited or restricted-use Pesticides.

The Program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Offices in Rains, Wood and Van Zandt Counties. The Registration fee is \$10.00 at the door.

Please RSVP by **February 27, 2017** to either of the following County Offices:

Rains (903/473-4580), **Van Zandt** (903/567-4149), or **Wood** (903/763-2924).

Attendees must purchase a current Study Guide (\$25.00) and the Laws and Regulations book (\$15.00) which are available at the County Extension Office. If you purchased your study guide and laws and regulations book at another Extension Office, we need verification (receipt of purchase, or the books themselves).

EAST TEXAS FORAGE CONFERENCE

Three CEU's (2 IPM and 1 General) will be given.

The East Texas Forage Conference will be held on **February 24, 2017** at the Rains County Fairgrounds (Highways 69 & 19) in Emory, Texas for all beef, dairy and forage producers in the area.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Topics include:

◆ Brush Control in Pastures

- ◆ Use of Summer Annuals
- ◆ Getting the Highest Value Out of Your Hay
- ◆ Weeds and Insect Management in Pastures and Hay Meadows

Registration fee of \$20.00 per person includes lunch and refreshments. Three CEUs (2 IPM, and 1 General) will be given.

Please RSVP by February 17, 2017 for an accurate meal count.

This program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Offices in Rains, Wood and Van Zandt Counties.

POND MANAGEMENT TRAINING



Please mark your schedule for a Pond Management Seminar on **Friday, May 5th** from 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M. at Greene's Lake in Emory. More information will be provided in the future.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in these activities are encouraged to contact the Rains County Extension Office at 903-473-4580 for assistance.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

THE VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE: WHAT PRODUCERS NEED TO KNOW

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet - Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

As of January 1, 2017, if a livestock or dairy producer wants to feed his animals certain medicated feeds, he cannot simply go to the feed store, purchase the feed, and dump it in the feed bunk. Amendments to the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), a federal regulation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) make the process more complicated for producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers.

What is the VFD?

Before enacting the VFD in 1996, the FDA recognized two categories of animal drugs: over-the-counter and prescription. Because requiring prescriptions for animal feeds containing antibiotics was considered impractical, medicated feeds were classified as over-the-counter.

In 1996, the FDA added a third category, VFD drugs, to the list. Significant amendments, known as the Second VFD Rule, were published in June 2015. The VFD concept attempts to balance the need for antibiotic use to protect animal health with concern about how the overuse of antibiotics both in the livestock industry and in human medicine might contribute to antibiotic resistance. The revised VFD rules ensure that antimicrobial drugs are used for therapeutic (to treat sick animals), rather than production purposes and that licensed veterinarians supervise such use.

The amendments make three significant changes:

- Drug sponsors will modify labeling for certain products by withdrawing production uses such as increased rate of weight gain and allowing only therapeutic uses.
- Medicated feed additives designated as medically important, previously considered over-the-counter, will be VFD drugs subject to the new rules. The term medically important includes all drugs considered important for therapeutic use in humans.
- A veterinarian must complete a VFD form before a producer can buy VFD drugs, even those in medicated feeds.

What drugs are affected?

The VFD amendments affect only those antimicrobials that are medically important and administered in feed or water.

An antimicrobial is a “substance of a natural, semisynthetic, or synthetic origin that kills or inhibits the growth of microorganisms but causes little or no damage to the host.”* All antibiotics are antimicrobials, but other medications are not. Ivermectin, for example, is not an antimicrobial and VFD rules do not apply to its use.

For VFD rules to apply, a drug must be both an antimicrobial and medically important. The FDA website has a list of affected drugs at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/JudiciousUseofAntimicrobials/ucm390429.htm>.

How do producers buy medicated feed?

First, to purchase any VFD drug or feed containing these drugs, a producer must consult a veterinarian with whom there is a veterinary-client-patient relationship, meaning that the veterinarian has worked with the client, can make clinical judgments about patient health, has sufficient knowledge of the patient by examining the animal or facilities, and can provide follow-up care.

Second, producers who own animals in different states must obtain a VFD form from a veterinarian licensed in the state where the animals are located.

Though no specific format is required, the VFD form must specify the medication to be obtained and include:

- Name and contact information for the veterinarian and the producer
- Location of the animals
- Species of animal to receive the feed
- Approximate number of animals to receive the feed
- Indication for the use of the drug
- VFD issuance date
- Expiration date of the VFD approval
- Name of the allowed drugs
- Level of drug permitted in the feed
- Duration of use
- Number of refills
- Withdrawal time
- Special instructions and cautionary statements

A producer may not dispense the drug for extra-label use; it may be used only according to the approved labeling. And, because drug sponsors are revising the labels in light of the new rules, using certain drugs for production uses will no longer be allowed.

A veterinarian may not write a VFD for an extra-label use. For example, a drug labeled for sheep may not be used in cattle; consequently, a veterinarian may not write a VFD for a sheep drug for a cattle producer. Similarly, a veterinarian may not write a VFD for production enhancement purpose for a drug that, based on the label, is allowed only for therapeutic use.

Third, the producer takes the completed form to the feed supplier to obtain the feed the veterinarian has approved. The producer can then use the product, but must do so in agreement with the requirements imposed on the label. Each VFD form includes an expiration date that states the last day the product may be fed to the animals, regardless of the purchase date. The expiration date complies with any labeling requirements, but cannot exceed six months.

The feed supplier, veterinarian, and producer must keep copies of all VFD forms for two years. The veterinarian keeps the original document.

When do the new VFD rules begin?

The new rules went into effect October 15, 2015 for all medications previously categorized as VFD drugs. For all drugs formerly classified as over-the-counter but now considered VFD, the target implementation date is January 1, 2017. Drug manufacturers are revising labels to limit allowable uses to therapeutic purposes.