

AVA Newsletter

Drug Residue Avoidance

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Due to the ever changing rules and regulations revolving around drug use in livestock and animal agriculture we thought we would touch on some of the main points you and your employees should be practicing on your farm in order to prevent a drug residue violation.



Follow the drug label

Specific milk and meat withdrawal times have been established for most drugs that are sold from the clinic. These withdrawal times are only applicable when the drug is used according to label instructions. Changing the dose, route of administration (under the skin vs. in the muscle or vein), or duration of treatment can drastically change the withdrawal time.

If a residue is detected from an animal that is linked to your farm, you will have to explain the occurrence to an FDA inspector. Violations may result in warnings, fines, or your inability to sell animals from your farm.

Keep written treatment records

Perhaps the most important measure one can take on their farm to prevent drug residues in milk and meat is by keeping written treatment records. These records should include such information as date, cow identification, drug administered, dose, route of administration (under the skin, in the muscle, orally etc), and even who administered the drug. It is important that all employees who may treat cows and calves know where to record this information and that it is kept current and available. These records provide a resource for people on the farm as well as for veterinarians and FDA inspectors should there be an issue. Take a look at the records before you load a cow onto the trailer for slaughter to double check withhold times. It is also important to keep a written record in addition to computer records that you may already be using.

We have prepared record-keeping notebooks if your farm needs one, just ask us!



**Dry Sawdust Bedding
and
Fine Cut Shredded Paper Bales
Call Dean George (716) 430-3747**

Bulk Tank Culturing

Bulk tank culturing is an important tool to improving quality milk and cow health on your farm. Monthly monitoring is a extremely useful tool . Our milk lab would like to partner with you in this capacity. Please ask your veterinarian, call our lab, or e-mail atticavettech@yahoo.com to discuss how we can make it work for your farm. We can set this up, to minimize work on your end. Our normal price for a bulk tank sample is \$10.50 which includes a complete bacteria count and somatic cell count. We can add a mycoplasma culture to it for \$12.50.



Fall Care for Pastured Heifers
Sam Leadley

Every dairy magazine and newsletter in the fall reminds us to worm heifers. That is good advice. Intestinal parasites reduce efficiency of nutrient absorption. Reductions in nutrient absorption lead to lower growth rates. Wormers can be added to the heifer feed. They can be injected or used as a “pour-on” application. They all work. Worming is cost effective. Less feed produces more growth without internal parasites.

Is our housing adequate? First, count the heifers to go into your housing. Then, look at the barn. How much space (square footage) is available for these pastured heifers? The space that was adequate when these heifers went out to pasture in May could be inadequate now. Remember how much these animals have grown since May!

The guidelines for space on a bedded pack depend on the size of the heifer. From six months old to one year thirty square feet per heifer is suggested. One year and over the recommended area is forty square feet. Housing that was big enough for nine-month olds in May is going to be too small for these breeding size heifers now.

Feedbunk space is another critical item to check. Six to nine month old heifers get along fine with just over one foot per animal (15” is recommended). The recommendation for nine to twelve month old heifers is 18” and 20” is the length suggested for one year and over. Feedbunk space that was barely adequate in May will be the weak point in heifer housing in October. Too little space at the feedbunk will not hold back all the heifers. The most aggressive heifers will continue to mature at normal rates, but, the less pushy ones will lose out. They end up getting bred a month or two later. Or, they end up calving at 100 or 150 pounds lighter than desired.



Now until November 15th, buy one case or pail (144 tubes) of mastitis treatment (ToDay, Hetacin K) or dry treatment (ToMorrow, Dry Clox) and get one bottle of **POLYFLEX FREE!**

