



MI PORK SAMPLER

FDA Begins On-Farm Inspections with VFD Pilot Project

Although the much-talked about new antibiotic regulations do not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2017, U.S. pork producers may see inspectors from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) visit their farms any time now under the agency's new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Field Pilot Project. According to the FDA, the project is focusing on education, rather than enforcement or compliance.

"The pilot will help us identify areas where there may be lack of clarity about the upcoming regulations so that we can help inform veterinarians, producers and feed mills of any adjustments they may need to make in order to be in compliance with updated regulations," said William Flynn, deputy director for science policy in FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

The program is designed to help educate the FDA's auditors as they prepare for the new antibiotic changes. Unlike the beef and dairy industries, the pork industry has had a VFD requirement for more than a decade for tilmicosin, florfenicol and avilamycin. That's why the agency is seeking to work with pork producers, swine veterinarians, feed mill operators and farm retailers who currently handle and use feed containing those antibiotic compounds to ensure that they are in compliance with the existing regulation.

According to the FDA, the parts of the inspection tool come directly from the new VFD regulation itself and is covered in the VFD brochures and fact sheets that the agency has developed for producers, veterinarians and

distributors. As always, producers, veterinarians and feed mills should make sure they're in full compliance with the existing VFD rule, which includes the proper information and record-keeping.

In December 2013, the FDA published Guidance #213, which calls on animal drug sponsors of approved medically important antimicrobials, administered through medicated feed or water, to remove growth promotion uses from their product labels. It also calls for them to bring the remaining therapeutic uses of these products under the oversight of a veterinarian by the end of December 2016.

"On the FDA side of the equation, inspectors must clearly understand the need to abide by on-farm biosecurity protocols to help ensure that potential disease transmission is minimized," said Jennifer Wishnie, Pork Checkoff's director of producer and public health. "Everyone must do what's necessary to safeguard animal and human health, so producers and their veterinarians should clearly explain what biosecurity procedures are needed before farm access is granted to anyone."

Starts with Feed Mill/Retailer

FDA says a farm visit starts with FDA pilot program inspectors going to feed distributors. There they will examine three randomly selected VFD forms, picking one form to follow back to the veterinarian and forward to the producer.

The FDA has shared the elements that are included in the inspection tool for the investigators to use to ensure that the required items appear on the VFD form. Here are the main items producers should know how to answer prior to an inspector visiting their farm.

- Veterinarian's name, address and telephone number
- Client's (producer's) name, business or home address and telephone number

DON'T WAIT... BE READY!

NEW ANTIBIOTICS RULES



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Capital Update

NPPC Past President Doug Wolf Passes

Doug Wolf, a pork producer from Lancaster, Wis., and a past president and board member of NPPC, passed away suddenly. Wolf was a partner in Wolf L&G Farms LLC, which he ran with his wife Kris and son Shannon and family. Wolf L&G Farms includes a commercial swine operation, a cow-calf herd and crop operation that produces corn, soybeans and alfalfa. In addition to his service with NPPC, Wolf was involved with the National Pork Board – most recently as chairman of its Trade Committee – the Wisconsin Pork Association, the Grant County (Wis.) Pork Producers, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, representing NPPC. At the time of his passing, he also served on the Wisconsin State Board Of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and as a director with People’s State Bank of Prairie Du Chen, Wis., and was involved with Driftless Meats, a USDA-approved processing and retail enterprise in Viroqua, Wis. “Doug was a great pork producer, a great servant to the pork industry and, most importantly, a great husband, father and person,” said NPPC CEO Neil Dierks. “He will be missed.”

NPPC Urges USDA to Reconsider Proposed Organic Animal Welfare Rules

NPPC recently submitted comments in opposition to USDA’s proposed new animal welfare standards for the National Organic Program that, if enacted, would be the first time such standards are codified in federal law and would present serious challenges to livestock producers. There are a number of problems with the proposed welfare rules, NPPC pointed out in its comments, including:

- Animal handling practices are not a defining characteristic of organic agriculture and are not germane to the National Organic Program as authorized by Congress.
- The livestock practices will be costly (if even practicable) to implement for current organic producers and serve as a barrier to new producers

entering organic production, without making the resulting products substantively more organic.

- Consumer misconception about the intent of the National Organic Program and the meaning of its label is not a valid rationale for expanding the program to encompass animal welfare.
- Animal welfare is complex and dynamic; decisions about animal care need to be science based and carefully considered by each producer.
- The proposed livestock and poultry practices present significant challenges to the maintenance and promotion of public and animal health.

NPPC requested that USDA reconsider the proposed animal welfare standards, arguing that, because animal welfare is not germane under the Organic Foods Production Act, USDA does not have clear authority to promulgate such rules. It also pointed out that the regulations will have a negative effect on the cost and availability of organic livestock and poultry products, cannot be justified by claims that it will clarify public expectations about organic labels or address an unfair competitive disadvantage facing organic producers, are not science based and present real challenges to protecting animal and public health.

Japan Looking to Approve TPP This Fall

While the Republican Party may have cooled on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump wants to renegotiate the deal, Japan is forging ahead on the 12-country Asia-Pacific agreement. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who’s Liberal Democratic Party recently secured a majority in the upper house of Japan’s legislature, is working to get the Diet to ratify the TPP this fall. Japan is not interested in re-working the deal. The TPP, negotiations on which were initiated in late 2008 and concluded last October, is a regional trade deal that includes the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam, which account for nearly 40 percent of global GDP.



Pork Checkoff

Shedding Light on Swine Rations

Feed accounts for 65 percent to 70 percent of the cost of getting a hog to market weight. So regardless of feed prices, there's still plenty of motivation to improve feed utilization.

The 2008 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) and its potential to dramatically increase feed-grain prices raised the stakes. Anticipating this, the Pork Checkoff established the Feed Efficiency Research Consortium in 2007. Along with producers, this unique effort involved allied industry, commodity boards and state pork organizations.

Results Offers New Feed Strategies

Producers wanted answers on using feed more efficiently. The coalition identified areas for research and consolidated projects to expedite results. Findings from the consortium-directed research have provided new tools and have refined ways to manage swine diets. Examples of results include:

- A better understanding of energy utilization and nutritional management for health-compromised pigs.
- Better insight on managing and developing rations and strategies to improve feed efficiency performance.
- New options to utilize alternative feed ingredients in swine diets.

“The Feed Efficiency Research Consortium created a foundation of collaborative investment to improve feed efficiency,” said Joel DeRouche, Kansas State University swine nutritionist. “The Checkoff continues to invest in innovative feed cost and efficiency research to help U.S. pork producers remain globally competitive.”

The consortium's work has evolved into the high feed-cost mitigation effort now underway,

concentrating almost entirely on feed efficiency. It also prompted USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture to fund a four-year, \$5 million project in swine feed efficiency directed by Iowa State University and Kansas State University.

In Search of PRRS Answers

For more than two decades, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) has weighed heavily on pork producers, costing the U.S. industry \$640 million annually. The PRRS Host Genetics Consortium was created in 2004 to answer a range of questions about the virus and the disease.

“Research conducted by the consortium identified exactly how a pig contracts the PRRS virus,” said the Pork Checkoff's Chris Hostetler. “This led to improvements in biosecurity and other prevention techniques on the farm and when transporting pigs.”

For example, the Checkoff invested \$95,760 to study trailer disinfection options to mitigate PRRS exposure. The findings now save the U.S. industry \$11.23 million annually.

The consortium's decade of research also created a clearer vision for the role that genomics play in PRRS and other diseases by identifying the specific genetic systems involved in PRRS infection.

“Recently, University of Missouri researchers used gene editing to develop the first PRRS-resistant pigs,” Hostetler noted. “Hopefully this will eventually result in the elimination of PRRS in the swine industry.”

In the end, the 10-year project received more than \$18 million in federal, university and industry support. It's also recognized as the largest research collaboration with industry in the history of the USDA-ARS.

The Checkoff publication, PRRS Initiative Research 2004-2011, outlines key findings and herd-health management strategies from the consortium's early research. It's available online at pork.org/production.

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In Search of
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- Premises where the animals specified in the VFD order are located
- Date the VFD order was issued
- Expiration date of the VFD order
- Is the name of the VFD drug or drugs identified on the form?
- Species and production class of animals to be fed the VFD feed
- Approximate number of animals to be fed the VFD feed by the expiration date of the VFD order
- Reason the VFD order was issued (the indication)
- Level of VFD drug in the feed and duration of use
- Withdrawal time, special instructions and cautionary statements necessary to use the drug according to its approved labeling
- The number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted by the drug's approval, conditional approval or index listing
- This required statement: "Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extra-label

use), is not permitted."

- Affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs
- Veterinarian's electronic or written signature

Pork Checkoff Provides Tools

For more than a year, the National Pork Board has been offering a host of pork-specific information related to the upcoming antibiotic regulations. The creation of the Checkoff's Antibiotic Resource Center found at www.pork.org/antibiotics is a clearinghouse of information and how-to steps for producers to prepare for the changes. The comprehensive biosecurity protocols also serve as a good resource for producers to review prior to any off-farm visitors.

"We hope that pork producers will take the opportunity to learn more about the upcoming antibiotic changes if they haven't already done so," Wishnie said. "We know that we're reaching many producers through our 'Don't Wait... Be Ready!' education campaign and with our many practical, on-farm resources. However, we're committed to continued outreach to help ensure that all producers are aware of what's changing with antibiotic use and to being fully prepared. It's all about doing what's best for people, pigs and the planet."