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VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a series of reports outlining changes for the use of antibiotic products in livestock feed. The proposed changes would expand the list of antibiotics included in federal veterinary feed directive (VFD), a program which is already in existence. The long and short of the situation is that if you feed any of the animal health products listed below, you will need to obtain a VFD from your veterinarian and present it to your feed company before you will be able to obtain livestock feed containing these products.

Animal health products that will be affected by the new VFD rules include:

- Penicillins
- Cephalosporins
- Quinolones
- Fluoroquinolones
- Tetracyclines
- Macrolides
- Sulfas
- Glycopeptides
- A few other minor products

If you utilize any of these products, here are some things to think about before the rule comes into full effect by December 31, 2016:

- **Make note of when and how much of these products you use.**
As you will have to obtain a VFD from your veterinarian, knowing when and how much of these products you use will help you and your veterinarian fill out VFD paperwork as quickly as possible.
- **Take stock of what you have on hand.**
While you still have time before you will need to be in compliance with this new rule, all feed containing the products listed above will need to have a VFD associated with the product you have in storage.
- **Water soluble versions will require a prescription.**
However, injectable versions of these products are not affected.
- **The extra label use of any of these products is now prohibited, even by veterinarians**
If you frequently utilize any of the listed products to treat a medical condition that isn't included on the label, please notify us as we are trying to compile a list of these instances.
- **Production uses, i.e. growth promotion and feed efficiency, will no longer be allowed on any VFD covered product.**

*Animal health products not affected by this rule include: Ionophores, Polypeptides, Carbadox, Barnbermycin, and Pleuromutilin.

