

September 27, 2016

Dear Livestock Exhibitor Families,

We hope that everyone's school year has started off well. We just want to take a minute to help bring you up to speed on a topic that you may or may not have heard about. The topic is the **VFD** or Veterinary Feed Directive.

*For now we suggest the following, be proactive, schedule a visit with your veterinarian to discuss your project plans in order to establish a working relationship with them. This will help establish a Veterinary Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) as appropriate and necessary if antibiotics will be used during the duration of the project.*

Beginning January 1, 2017 purchasing feed containing antibiotics or purchasing antibiotics for administration through water will require livestock exhibitors have a working relationship (VCPR) with their veterinarian. A Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) is similar to the relationship one would have with their family doctor. The livestock exhibitor, should initiate the VCPR prior to the beginning of the feeding period,

The current **VFD** has been in place since 1996, however January 1st changes impacting livestock exhibitors will become effective. Antibiotics used in feed or water require veterinary oversight. For example *Liconmycin* in swine feed.

The changes will also affect antibiotics administered through water, which require a veterinarian's prescription. For example this will affect those exhibitors treating poultry with *Tetracycline*. It is critical that exhibitors establish a VCPR with their veterinarian and locate a source to purchase antibiotics prior to delivery of poultry.

For now we suggest the following, be proactive, schedule a visit with your veterinarian to discuss your project plans in order to establish a VCPR as appropriate.

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