



NEW LIVESTOCK FEED RULE

INFORMATION FROM THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Livestock producers have new federal rules to follow when feeding their animals. As of January 1, 2017, a licensed veterinarian must approve and supervise use of certain medications in livestock feed.



Department of
Agriculture

“Antibiotics are vitally important for fighting illness and maintaining livestock health,” state veterinarian Dr. Charles Hatcher said. “However, we must make sure that drugs don’t develop resistance. These new rules will move us toward the elimination of antibiotic use for production purposes, while still allowing producers to use prescribed antibiotics to treat and control disease.”

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will require producers to have a veterinary feed directive (VFD) in order to feed certain antimicrobial drugs. Before a producer can obtain a VFD, their licensed veterinarian of record must examine and diagnose the livestock in question. Producers must then provide the VFD to their feed manufacturer or supplier. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture routinely inspects feed manufacturers. Any mills that mix antimicrobials into livestock feed will be required to show proof of the VFD during inspection. Extra-label use of a VFD drug in an animal feed for weight gain or feed efficiency is prohibited.

More information is available at

www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm