



Reminders about Veterinary Feed Directive Drugs (VFD) in 2023

VFD drugs are drugs approved as feed additives but that require veterinary oversight. All medically important antimicrobial drugs that are approved for use in feed are VFD drugs.

Below are important characteristics of VFD drugs, and additional details are available in the resources linked at the end of this document or in the 2017 AASRP document: “Tips for Small Ruminant Practitioners on VFD Drugs”.

- Veterinarian must be licensed in the state where the animals are located and being fed the VFD feed.
- A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) must exist that satisfies the requirements of the federally codified VCPR. To see if your state VCPR satisfies this requirement, visit <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm460406.htm>
 - If your state does not have a VCPR or does not meet the federal requirements, you must follow the federal VCPR.
- Extralabel use of VFD drug is prohibited under federal statute.
 - However, the FDA Compliance Policy Guide 615.115 describes the FDA’s exercise of regulatory discretion when minor species such as small ruminants require a VFD drug approved in cattle. The CPG is available at: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/cpg-sec-615115-extralabel-use-medicated-feeds-minor-species>
 - In addition to the requirements laid out in the CPG, veterinarians should add information to the special instructions box on the VFD:
- Detailed information on the mechanics of writing VFDs can be found in the AASRP document “AASRP Tips Small Ruminant Veterinarians on VFD Drugs – 2017”.
 - “This VFD is being issued in accordance with CPG 615.115”
 - The actual species for which the medicated feed is intended.
 - The withdrawal time associated with the extralabel use.

Selected Resources

All Blue Bird Labels for all feed grade products to check species, production class, dose, indication, and duration: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/medicated-feeds/blue-bird-labels>

Links to FDA website resources on antimicrobial stewardship, which includes VFD resources: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/antimicrobial-resistance/fda-antimicrobial-stewardship-animals-stakeholder-resources>

To search the animal drugs database at the FDA-CVM:
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/animaldrugsatfda/>