



Countryside Veterinary Clinic, LLP

March 2017 Newsletter



VCPR's and Treatment Records

Peter G. Ostrum, DVM

We are currently reviewing our farm treatment protocols and making sure that all of our farms have an up to date Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) document in place. Legally we cannot provide prescription medications or recommendations regarding individual or herd treatments without a valid VCPR. This means that we as veterinarians must have sufficient knowledge of your farm and how you diagnose and treat animals in order to provide veterinary advice.

A key component of the VCPR document concerns treatment records. It is absolutely necessary that complete and accurate records be kept on all treatments given to food producing animals. We require all clients to maintain these records in order to comply with the VCPR. Because this matter is so serious, before we will sign a VCPR document, your treatment records must be shown to your herd veterinarian.

Remember that treatment records are for your protection too. If your farm ever has the misfortune of having a slaughter residue prompting a state or FDA farm investigation, the first item to be scrutinized will be your treatment records. Sending cull cows to slaughter without antibiotic or treatment residues should be a top priority for every farm.

As a reminder, you must record the following information when treating any animal on the farm with a drug that has a milk or slaughter withhold. Treatment records must be kept for a minimum of 2 years.

1. Permanent ID of treated animal.
2. Drug administered.
3. Dose and duration of treatment (i.e. 20cc once daily for 5 days)
4. Site of administration: (i.e. IM intramuscular, SQ under the skin, IV intra venously or IMM intramammary, or PO orally)
5. Who administered the drug (name or initials).
6. Withdrawal period for milk and slaughter.

Follow the labeled directions carefully prior to any drug treatment. Avoid the hindquarters for IM injections if at all possible. If labeling permits, SQ or IM injections in the neck are always preferred. Using clean needles and syringes will also help avoid injection site abscesses that often result in excessive trimming at slaughter.

Finally, it's helpful to remember that research regarding withdrawal times have all been based on healthy animals. Cows that have been sick or are not eating probably don't clear antibiotics from their system as soon as the labeled directions would indicate. Therefore, it makes sense to extend the withdrawal for slaughter on cows that have been severely stressed. A good rule of thumb is to start the withdrawal time clock when the cow is eating and recovered from her treated condition.

Beef meeting – April 4th

Dr. Grant Crawford from Merck Animal Health will be speaking on "Beef cow nutrition and strategic deworming." The meeting will take place on Tuesday April 4th at Ridgeview Restaurant on the Bardo road beginning at 6:30 with dinner followed by the presentation. **Please RSVP to Countryside's Lowville office 315-376-6563 by March 28th.**

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Since August of 2015 Dr Crawford has served as a Technical Services Manager with Merck Animal Health. In this role Dr Crawford provides technical support for the ruminants sales team, develops and maintains relationships with customers, university faculty, beef cattle nutritionists and veterinarians, and participates in research involving Merck Animal Health products. In addition, Dr Crawford serves as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota where he contributes to research, teaching, and extension activities and serves on graduate student committees.

Prior to joining Merck Animal Health, Dr Crawford spent three years as the Director of Beef Technical Services at Form-A-Feed, Inc. At Form-A-Feed, Dr Crawford provided beef cattle nutritional and management consulting services to clients, directed beef research and contributed to new product development, and provided technical support and training to the beef sales team. (K& D Farms) Dr Crawford was a Feedlot Extension Educator and Assistant/Associate Extension Professor with the University of Minnesota Extension from 2007 to 2012. In this role Dr Crawford had statewide responsibilities for beef cattle extension, and also maintained a feedlot research program that produced numerous research abstracts, research reports, and refereed journal articles.

Dr Crawford was born and raised on a crop and livestock farm outside of Beaver Creek, MN, and received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from South Dakota State University, a M.S. degree in Animal Science from the University of Minnesota, and a Ph. D. degree in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska. Dr Crawford and his wife Julie and their daughter Elise reside near Jasper, MN.

This meeting is being sponsored by Merck Animal Health and Countryside.



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