



From the desk of Dr. Jarrett Gordon, DVM
December 1st, 2016



Welcome to the last month of 2016! Where does the time go? For many of our hard-working farmers, the end of this year couldn't come quick enough. All of us hope for a brighter-looking 2017. There is at least a glimmer

of hope on the horizon for milk prices in 2017.

As we prepare for 2017, there are a couple things to be mindful of. First, the new rules for Veterinary Feed Directives (VFDs) will take effect. We strongly urge each farm to plan ahead. We will need 12-24 hours at a minimum to get a VFD in place. (Assuming we already have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship with your farm.) Things you can help with are to make a list of all the medications you are/have been feeding or adding to the water. Show that list to your veterinarian on the next herd visit. We will be able to tell you which ones will require a VFD or prescription in order to continue to use them. Just because you purchased the medications before January 1st does not make it legal to use them after January 1st. You will need a VFD/prescription in place to use up any inventoried product on your farm. Please be patient with everyone involved through this transition. There are many unknowns at this point, and there is no reason to get angry or belligerent with your vet or feed suppliers. Calmness and patience will be very helpful as we all learn together how this process will work. We plan to use Global VetLink to write VFD's electronically. We will need your e-mail address as well as the name/phone number/address/e-mail of your feed supplier/distributor. (We hope most of those will be entered into the system by the January 1 "start date" as we have been collecting them for several months.) We anticipate running into some inventory shortfalls with respect to the water-additive medications since we have no way of knowing how much farms have been using. (Because they have been available at farm supply stores such as TSC with no reporting to us.) It will take a couple months to gain some equilibrium with supply/demand at the clinic. For most of you, the dropship program will be the best choice for the water-additive products that will now require a prescription. Here is a quick list of medications that will transition from over-the-counter to prescription: chlortetracycline, erythromycin, lincomycin, spectinomycin, neomycin, sulfadimethoxine, tetracycline. Remember, these are the

powder forms that you can add to water. Here is a quick list of products that will need a VFD: AS 700/Aureomycin crumbles (Chlortet), Neomycin in milk replacer, Terramycin in milk replacer, and tylan. Remember that any product added to milk replacer needs a VFD because milk and milk replacer are considered "feed." You can google VFD for a complete list of all drugs and how their status will be changing.

The second big item to be concerned about is the FARM program paperwork. (Hopefully by now you've all completed the stack of protocols and required items.) For many of our farms, we are beginning to do the renewal process and updating vaccination protocols. Please talk to your veterinarian if there are any items you need help with. This is another "new" process that seems rather daunting at first, but it is a huge step toward public trust in our dairy products. It is well worth the effort to get them done. We don't know if there will be any regulatory enforcement for those who don't have them in place, but being proactive is better than procrastinating on these should any penalties be incurred.

Remember to take time with friends and family this holiday season, to be grateful for life and the freedoms we have, and never forget the Reason for the Season: Jesus came to earth to pay the price for our sins and offer us eternal life. That is something to put your HOPE in! Merry Christmas to all!

Mobile Parlor Training with Dr. Roger Thompson brought to you by Merck Animal Health
Send your employees that "fix" things in the parlor. This is a hands on training dealing with parlor mechanical issues.
Save the date: 12/7/16
1:30 or 5:00 pm

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