



PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

Changes To Antibiotic Use In Livestock Feeds

BY JAKE GEIS, DVM
Tyndall

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest challenges facing our world in the 21st century. It is a complex problem, so much that scientists agree we don't know nearly enough about why it happens and how to prevent it. This issue is compounded by the fact that antibiotics are used in so many ways, and often in an unregulated fashion in developing countries.

Since antibiotics are used in animal husbandry, increased scrutiny was placed on exactly how livestock received antibiotics and for what reasons they received them. In particular, the usage of antibiotics in livestock feed for medical or growth promotion purposes was a focus. In light of this, manufacturers of livestock feed volunteered to work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to change how antibiotics could be administered to livestock in feed sources. The resulting effect was FDA Guidances 209 and 213, which outlined a number of new practices that will come into full effect next year.

First, it is important to note that antibiotics used in livestock feed are seldom or never used in human medicine. The main antibiotic class used for growth promotion, ionophores, has been deemed by World Health Organization as not medically important for human medicine. Ionophores are also an important medicine in controlling the parasite coccidia. Tetracycline antibiotics are used in livestock feed, but less frequently in human medicine, and then mostly for treating acne. The two account for the majority of antibiotics used in livestock feed.

Guidances 209 and 213 were designed with these situations in mind. Any antibiotic that is used in any way for human medicine, including tetracyclines, will no longer be used for growth promotion. In addition, a prescription from a veterinarian that is familiar with and has seen the farmer's livestock will be required for the antibiotic feed to be released to the farmer. Like all prescriptions, this one will only be good for a certain period of time, which can be no longer than six months, and will have certain number of refills. Ionophores are not used in human medicine, consequently they will be exempt, although if they are fed concurrently with another antibiotic they will also have to be included on the prescription.

These Guidances also limit the diseases that can be treated with fed antibiotics. If the disease is not listed on the label, it cannot be treated with antibiotics in feed. In addition, the antibiotic must be fed exactly as it is written on the label. No one, including the veterinarian, can change the dosage amount or frequency.

The rationale for not eliminating antibiotics from feed entirely comes down to the nature of disease in livestock. Since livestock are prey animals, they instinctively hide signs of illness, as in the wild this would've led to them becoming wolf or coyote food. However, this makes it difficult to definitively determine if a certain animal is sick or not. Also, diseases in livestock often move through an entire group of animals in a short period of time. This creates a situation where nearly 100% of the herd will need to be treated with antibiotics, or a large portion of the group will die.

Therefore in a situation where a significant portion of the herd is ill, one can assume more animals are also sick, but hiding the symptoms. The options are to use an injectable antibiotic, an oral antibiotic or let some die. Seeing that the last option is unacceptable for animal welfare, we must choose between the two former. To use an injectable antibiotic the animals must be caught one at a time, which creates more stress on the sick animals. Giving the antibiotic orally through the feed allows them to receive the medications they need without the stress of being caught.

The changes introduced with Guidance 209 and 213 will not be enough alone to combat antibiotic resistance. People from both the human health and animal health fields, along with any other users of antibiotics, will need to continue to work together to ensure antibiotics maintain their efficacy. Open and honest conversation that takes into account the needs of all stakeholders will yield the most positive results and keep our antibiotics working for generations to come.

Jake Geis, DVM, works out of the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic.



Jake
GEIS

Evacuation: A Team Approach

When A Disaster Strikes And Your Livestock Need To Be Moved, Don't Go It Alone

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Given the choice, most ranchers would have likely evacuated their herds, rather than take their chances with the blizzard that killed tens of thousands of livestock in South Dakota and the Nebraska Panhandle in October 2013.

And often, if possible, evacuation is the wise decision to keep farm animals safe during a disaster. But it's not an effort to be done alone.

"It's important to not self-deploy," said Scott Cotton, University of Wyoming Extension agricultural systems educator in Casper, Wyo., during an online practical livestock evacuation training hosted by the Extension Disaster Education Network. Cotton is chair-elect of EDEN.

Almost always, livestock producers need help from other producers with evacuation, but especially in cases when:

- The disaster event is near and/or moving quickly,
- Emergency responders have little experience with livestock,
- Big herds are involved,
- There is a long distance until safety,
- There is limited equipment available, and/or
- A short timeframe for evacuation is required.

But when other people are involved in an evacuation, there is an added element of risk, he said. A person who shows up to help who is not familiar with working with livestock is more likely to be a hindrance – and liability – than not. Efforts meant to be helpful,

yet out of inexperience, can also inadvertently put willing helpers and others in danger.

"The lives and safety of evacuator always take precedence over livestock safety," Cotton said, "so we got to take safety first."

Livestock-knowledgeable responders, whether as part of a formal emergency unit or casual helpers, are critical in livestock evacuations. But they are not so easy to find, even in rural areas.

"About 40 percent of the people you are thinking you might call will end up being victims of the same disaster, too," Cotton said.

"About 40 percent of the people you are thinking you might call will end up being victims of the same disaster, too."

SCOTT COTTON

He recommends that county emergency managers work together within a region to organize a livestock evacuation plan, with regular practice drills, in case of disasters. They have the most extension training in emergency response and responder coordination. For the teams that he has assembled, Cotton required:

- Ten ranchers with eight trucks with trailers large enough to move livestock;
- Three livestock semi-trucks;
- Two on-call veterinarians;
- Two volunteers at the designated drop point;
- Two volunteers with a kennel truck, not only for working dogs and other pets but also smaller livestock like poultry or exotic livestock like miniature horses;
- Four ranchers with ATVs or four-wheel-drive pickups to herd livestock;
- Two boat teams on standby to cut fences crossing rivers;

- Portable panel fences; plus
- Any other resources deemed appropriate by county emergency management and area livestock producers.

Cotton suggests that all team members are in good physical condition and have at least 10 years of experience working with livestock as well as receive training in wildfire-fighting, basic veterinary care, basic roping, animal handling, trailer backing, dog handling and back country driving.

Team members also need to be able to put aside their differences to work well together. He told of an instance when one rancher didn't want to help in

the case that his neighbor would need a herd evacuation, because he claimed that the cattle carried trichomoniasis and didn't want his trailer contaminated. While this is why it's important to have a veterinarian on the team,

a disaster is also a time to compromise and realize when the benefit outweighs the risk.

"Sometimes you don't have a choice," Cotton said.

It may seem daunting to put together a team of this magnitude, but he said it can make all the difference. He recalled a 2006 wildfire in Northwest Nebraska that consumed 140,000 acres across two counties. Because the regional emergency management did not have a livestock evacuation team in place, it took more than nine hours to organize a team. Hundreds of livestock were lost. The same area experienced another wildfire in 2013 that consumed 215,000 acres.

"The difference is, it took only 47 minutes to get those teams moving," Cotton said. "They lost a lot less animals."

LOCAL WIND FARM INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

PREVAILING WINDS is hosting informational investment meetings for South Dakota residents to learn more about a community owned wind development near Avon, SD. The meetings will provide information regarding the scope of the project as well as the investment opportunity for local citizens to participate in wind ownership.

The meetings well be held at:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1:

Mitchell	2:00 p.m.	Highland Conf. Center (2000 Highland Way)
Yankton	7:00 p.m.	Minerva's Conf. Center (1607 SD Hwy 50)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3:

Watertown	2:00 p.m.	Event Center (1901 9th Ave SW)
Brookings	7:00 p.m.	Days Inn (2500 E. 6th St., Exit 132)

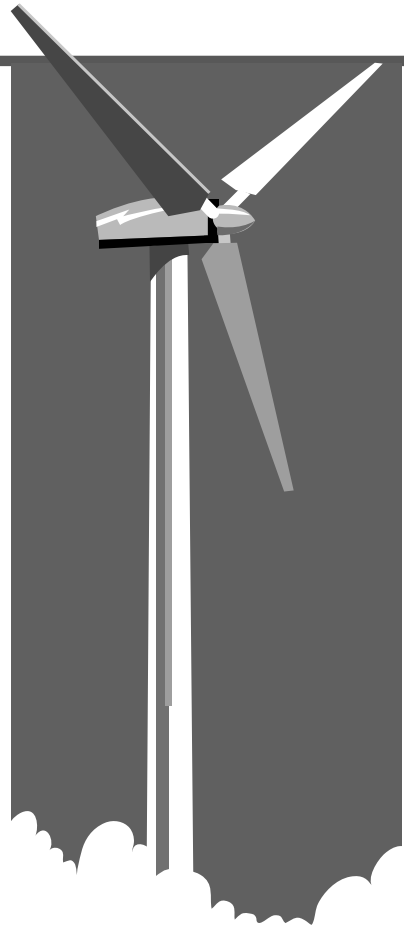
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8:

Platte	2:00 p.m.	Comm. Bldg. Mtg. Room (310 S. Main)
Tripp	7:00 p.m.	Fire Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10:

Sioux Falls	7:00 p.m.	Best Western Ramkota (3200 W. Maple)
-------------	-----------	---

Please call 605-271-0578 for more information.



This is not an offer to sell securities in Prevailing Winds. Investors who wish to purchase securities of Prevailing Winds must be residents of South Dakota and may only do so after reviewing a prospectus.

Beef Council Meeting Nov. 23

PIERRE — Directors and staff of the South Dakota Beef Industry Council (SDBIC) invite the public to attend their quarterly meeting Nov. 23 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre for committee meetings, as well as the organization's full board of directors' quarterly meeting.

Meetings will begin at 8 a.m. with a presentation on the National Research Priorities, staff program updates, committee reports, and a U.S. Meat Export Federation update.

All beef producers are

welcome to attend SDBIC committee and board meetings and are asked to RSVP by Nov. 18 to Director of Industry Relations Tracey Walsh at 605-224-4722 or twalsh@sdbef.org so that lunch and hotel accommodations can be made.

The public is welcome to attend a meet and greet social for Suzanne Geppert, SDBIC Executive Director on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. prior to the board of directors' meeting at the Ramkota Convention Center, Gallery D and E.