

A Beef Producers Guide for Judicious Use of Antimicrobials in Cattle

1. **Prevent Problems:** Emphasize appropriate husbandry and hygiene, routine health examinations, and vaccinations.
2. **Select and Use Antibiotics Carefully:** Consult with your veterinarian on the selection and use of antibiotics. Have a valid reason to use an antibiotic. Therapeutic alternatives should be considered prior to using antimicrobial therapy.
3. **Avoid Using Antibiotics Important In Human Medicine As First Line Therapy:** Avoid using as the first antibiotic those medications that are important to treating strategic human or animal infections.
4. **Use the Laboratory to Help You Select Antibiotics:** Cultures and susceptibility test results should be used to aid in the selection of antimicrobials, whenever possible.
5. **Combination Antibiotic Therapy Is Discouraged Unless There Is Clear Evidence The Specific Practice Is Beneficial:** select and dose an antibiotic to affect a cure.
6. **Avoid Inappropriate Antibiotic Use:** Confine therapeutic antimicrobial use to proven clinical indications, avoiding inappropriate uses such as for viral infections without bacterial complication.
7. **Treatment Programs Should Reflect Best Use Principles:** Regimens for therapeutic antimicrobial use should be optimized using current pharmacological information and principles.
8. **Treat the Fewest Number of Animals Possible:** Limit antibiotic use to sick or at risk animals.
9. **Treat for the Recommended Time Period:** To minimize the potential for bacteria to become resistant to antimicrobials.
10. **Avoid Environmental Contamination with Antibiotics:** Steps should be taken to minimize antimicrobials reaching the environment through spillage, contaminated ground run off or aerosolization.
11. **Keep Records of Antibiotic Use:** Accurate records of treatment and outcome should be used to evaluate therapeutic regimens and always follow proper withdrawal times.
12. **Follow Label Directions:** Follow label instructions and never use antibiotics other than as labeled without a valid veterinary prescription.

13. **Extralabel Antibiotic Use Must follow FDA Regulations:** Prescriptions, including extra label use of medications must meet the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and its regulations. This includes having a valid Veterinary-Client-Relationship.
14. **Subtherapeutic Antibiotic Use Is Discouraged:** Antibiotic use should be limited to prevent or control disease and should not be used if the principle intent is to improve performance.

Guidelines 1-13 adapted from AVMA, AABP and AVC Appropriate Veterinary Antibiotic Use Guidelines.