

## New Antibiotic Rules Will Apply to Youth Livestock Exhibitors

*From Article written by Marlys Miller, Pork Checkoff Report Magazine Summer 2016*

**Even though the following article is directed to youth swine exhibitors, FDA's Guidance 209 and the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule will apply to ALL large animal livestock; beef, sheep, swine, lamb and goats intended for food consumption.**

For youth swine exhibitors, parents and project advisors, Jan. 1, 2017, will usher in major changes in accessing medicated feeds for show pigs. That's when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will implement new rules, known as Guidance 209, for antibiotic use in all animals raised for food.

Antibiotics identified as medically important (to human health) will no longer be available for growth promotion purposes, including for show pigs.

"If you have even one pig, this action applies to you." said Jennifer Koeman, DVM, director of producer and public health for the Pork Checkoff. "Every antibiotic compound will be affected except for bacitracin, bambarmycin, carbadox, ionophores and tiamulin."



FDA's new antibiotic rules will impact everything from record-keeping requirements to feed purchases. Use of medically important antibiotics will be **limited to the prevention, treatment or control of a specific health challenge under a veterinarian's guidance.** "A veterinary-client-patient relationship or VCPR, will be required," Koeman said. "VCPR specifics can vary by state, but a veterinarian must have a working relationship with an exhibitor and be familiar with the pigs."

**"In other words, get to know your veterinarian on a first-name basis,"** said Ernie Barnes, director of industry services for the Checkoff. "Your veterinarian needs to visit the site for each set of show pigs."

Over-the-counter sales of medically important antibiotics administered in feed and water will end, Koeman said. Access to feed-grade antibiotics will require a veterinary feed directive (VFD) for a specific group of pigs for a specific timeline as established by the herd veterinarian. Water medications will require a prescription.

Note that leftover medicated feed will not be able to be fed beyond the timeline or to other animals.

## **Plan Now for Changes in Feed Purchases**

“Show pig exhibitors often have just a few pigs and buy bagged feed from the local feed or farm supply store,” Barnes said. “With FDA’s new rules, these stores may no longer carry feed that exhibitors are used to buying. Folks need to think about where they’re going to get feed that contains needed medication.”

He advises exhibitors to contact a veterinarian if they don’t already have one and get a comprehensive health plan in place. This will include which antibiotics are needed to maintain good health along with other animal husbandry tools, such as biosecurity and vaccinations.

## **New Record-Keeping Rules Will Be Introduced**

FDA’s new rules will usher in new record-keeping requirements for producers, including youth with show pigs. Veterinarians who issue VFDs will need to **keep the original form for two years**. Youth exhibitors/parents/advisors also will need to keep a printed or electronic copy for two years.

Feed mills or distributors also will be required to keep a copy on file for two years. Water prescriptions will need to be kept for one year. All of these records must be made available to FDA on request.

## **Other Tools to Keep Pigs Healthy Are Important**

“Of course, animal management, including proper nutrition, housing, daily observation and care, remain key to keeping pigs healthy and growing,” Koeman said. “Implementing recommended biosecurity practices also minimizes disease exposure.”

The Pork Checkoff’s booklet, *A Champion’s Guide to Youth Swine Exhibition: Biosecurity and Your Pig Project*, offers more guidance. It’s available at [pork.org/youth-and-education/fact-sheets/](http://pork.org/youth-and-education/fact-sheets/).

Other good Antibiotic Information Resource pages:

[Youth Swine Exhibitors’ Guide to New Antibiotic Rules](#)

[www.pork.org/antibiotics](http://www.pork.org/antibiotics)

If you have questions about your Lincoln or (East) Adams Co. WA 4-H Swine Project, contact:

### **Randy Williams**

Lincoln/Adams 4-H Program Coordinator, Washington State University Extension

Office: (509)725-4171 Ext. 19 fax: (509)725-4104 [randy.williams@wsu.edu](mailto:randy.williams@wsu.edu)

<http://ext100.wsu.edu/lincoln-adams/>

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