

LMA FACT SHEET

“ANIMAL DRUG RESIDUES”

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently renewed their efforts to crack down on residue violations in slaughter cows and veal calves, resulting in livestock markets having to take extra measures to address this issue with their sellers and buyers. Thus it is very important that livestock markets and dealers continue to work with their sellers to reduce the incidence of violative drug residues resulting from the overuse, extra-label use and failure to meet necessary withdrawal periods before moving food animals onto slaughter. This isn't just a legal mandate but absolutely necessary if the livestock industry is to maintain consumer confidence in the U. S. meat supply.

The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act places responsibility for drug residue violations in livestock throughout the chain of commerce. Thus producers have a duty to properly administer approved animal drugs and comply with established withdrawal periods to avoid drug residues above tolerance levels. Livestock markets and dealers failing to maintain good records and identification on the animals moving onto slaughter may become the “violator”, when livestock are unable to be traced back to their source where the drug was likely administered.

LMA urges livestock markets and dealers, as they become aware of a residue violation in livestock consigned or purchased by them, to take the opportunity to help educate and inform producers of proper animal drug management practices. After all, when a producer fails to meet their responsibility to provide safe and wholesome meat products to our families, it puts a black eye on the entire livestock industry.

The following are websites where dairy, beef and veal producers can obtain information on the proper administration and withdrawal of animal drugs treatments in order to avoid drug residue violations at slaughter. The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) website provides contact information for each state's BQA Coordinator, who can provide beef producers with drug residue information for the beef industry.

Veal quality assurance information: <http://www.americanveal.com/html/production.html>

Dairy quality assurance information:

http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/sites/default/files/Residue%20Manual_VIEW%2011_8_10.pdf

Beef cattle quality assurance state programs: <http://www.bqa.org/statebqa.aspx>

Lastly, you can view as well as direct your consignors to LMA's website, www.lmaweb.com and onto the “Industry & LMA News & Issues” link to access information from a recent animal drug residue webinar as well as the weblinks to the above websites, which can be found under the “Animal Drug Residue/Quality Assurance Information” heading.