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The impending Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is a major federal regulation that affects U.S. food animal production. Administered by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the VFD comes into full effect in January 2017 to revamp the use of drug-type antibiotics or antimicrobials in animal feed or water.

Today's VFD had its beginnings in the Animal Drug Availability Act two decades ago. The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), which includes Diamond V as a member, has participated in the rule making process and most of the association's recommendations have been incorporated in the final rule.

The VFD promotes the "judicious use" of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. This new rule means that antibiotic compounds previously used in federally licensed feed manufacture now come under veterinary supervision. Veterinarians must issue all VFDs within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship and only "when necessary for assuring animal health."

The VFD creates a new regulatory environment and generates questions, especially for the animal producer and his or her veterinarian. Under the VFD, antibiotics in feed and water are going to remain a necessary therapeutic tool in animal production for the foreseeable future.

Veterinarians are a big part of the effort to optimize antibiotic use and preserve the efficacy of current therapeutic treatments. Many are looking for solid research that evaluates alternative products that promote animal health naturally.

President's Update

Veterinary Feed Directive: Ready for regulatory change?



By Jeff Cannon
President & CEO
Diamond V

Extensive research shows that Diamond V's natural nutritional health products support animal digestive health and immune function. So the new FDA rule generates even greater opportunity for Diamond V to help support the natural biological potential of animals to sustain their health. The new rule makes Diamond V science, expertise, and technology even more vital in producing safe, sustainable, and affordable food in the U.S. and around the world.

For more on the coming change in FDA rules, visit "[VFD Central](#)" at Feedstuffs.com and "[Revised Guidance](#)" from the FDA.



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