

STAFF NEWS

W Scott Tillman, MS, DVM

This past year you may have noticed a couple different voices when calling in for appointments or medications. Juliana joined our team after Flo's retirement in July. Juliana has some dairy farming background from her grandparents farm, and loves gardening and spending time with family and friends. She has education and precious experience in communications and has been a great asset providing exceptional customer service at reception. Her personality is always upbeat and outgoing.

Justin took over as pharmacy manager and office coordinator, and orders and keeps inventory medications, gets them ready for veterinarians and clients, and runs the lab for milk cultures and fecals. His knowledge from a previous position in pharmaceutical sales with an animal health distributor has made him well suited to this position. He also has exceptional customer service skills and always friendly and helpful. He also enjoys gardening and taking care of his chickens, and taking care of family. He's been working with us the last few years, as well as previously in the past, but took over the pharmacy position earlier this year.

FOR THE KIDS

Can you find all **10** of the winter clothes in this newsletter?

How did the farmer find the missing cow?
He tractor down

What do you call a cow jumping on a trampoline?
A milkshake.



VETERINARIANS

BRIAN REED, DVM, MBA
DOUG SCIPIONI, VMD
ERICK STOLTZFUS, DVM
W SCOTT TILLMAN, MS, DVM

CINDY FOULKE, DVM
EDWARD FUHRMAN, DVM
JAMES SHISSLER, VMD
TERI COON, DVM
TIMOTHY TRAYER, DVM

SUPPORT TEAM

JULIANA JABLONSKI
COMMUNICATIONS

JERILYN HERRICK
FINANCIAL MANAGER

JUSTIN NOLT
PHARMACY

NEVADA STOLTZFUS
PHARMACY AIDE



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VFD REVIEW



James Shissler, VMD

What is a VFD? VFD stands for Veterinary Feed Directive. This written statement authorizes the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) to obtain and use animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or combination VFD drug to treat the client's animals only in accordance with the conditions for use approved, conditionally approved, or indexed by the FDA. A VFD is required to obtain in addition to actually feeding the product. In this way they are similar to a prescription, but are required for the actual feeding of the product.

How long does a VFD last? It lasts as long as the length of time starting to feed the product, till the duration of time is reached. For example, if it is written to feed 5 days, then it may only be feed for 5 days and no longer. If written for 21 days duration, then that is the maximum time allowed to feed the product. It may not be restarted in the same group or even feed to a different group of animals later on.

Is extra-label use allowed for different dose, duration, or time, or indications not on the label? No, according to the law it may only be used exactly according to label, not extra label or "off" label usage. It may only be used for treating disease. Not growth efficiency or weight gain purposes. The only exception for extra label use is in minor species like sheep or goats where the product is not labeled for and no other alternative is available.

Can you obtain a VFD ahead of time? Normally a herd visit is required to evaluate a disease condition, hopefully during the early stages. A herd visit may be necessary depending on frequency of past visits to your farm. With a valid client patient relationship your herd veterinarian may be able to provide a VFD script ahead of time if frequent enough herd visits are occurring, and recurrent issues may be anticipated based on season, group change or known stressor. A VFD script may be written up to 6 months or 180 days maximum. Past that expiration date the product may not be obtained or even feed after that time, even if possessing additional or excess product.

I have product left over from last year. May I start feeding that? No, technically a new VFD is required, since it is specifying the actual feeding of a specific group of animals that have been diagnosed and require treatment.

What records need to be kept in case an audit occurs? Keep records like giving any other medication, the only difference is this is a whole group rather than individual animal. Indicate the number of head, weight, dose, duration, start and stop dates and any withdrawal time. Keep your VFD script on file at least 2 years.

Why were VFD scripts implemented? The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is an important part of the FDA's overall strategy to ensure the judicious use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animal, and for the benefit of improving animal health and welfare, and, in turn, food safety and reducing unnecessary use or improper use. Judicious use means only in medically necessary circumstances to treat a diagnosed condition. The goal is to reduce occurrence of antibiotic resistant organisms that become more difficult to treat in both animals and potentially people.





Increasing Prevalence of Lactococcus Mastitis

Edward Furhman, DVM

Most dairy producers today are probably familiar with the species of bacteria Streptococci. Historically when doing cultures, Streptococcus uberis, S. agalactiae, S. dysgalactiae, and other “environmental Strep species” are some of the most common pathogens identified in cows with high somatic cell counts and/or mastitis. In the past it was often difficult for labs to differentiate Streptococci species from Lactococcus species. Thanks to further investigation and better diagnostic technology labs are more equipped to make this distinction. Lactococcus bacteria were first identified in the 1930’s and have been used for various purposes such as a silage inoculant and a starter culture for cheese. Originally little was known about the bacteria, and it was not thought to be a cause in bovine mastitis. It wasn’t until the early 2000’s that researchers began identifying Lactococcus lactis and Lactococcus garvieae as primary sources of infection in both buffalo and cows. A few year’s later, dairy herds in the New York state started to have outbreaks of mastitis caused primarily by either L. lactis or L. garvieae. Since then many herds across the country have dealt with the spread of Lactococcus mastitis.

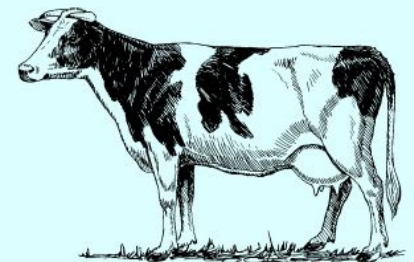
Cows infected with Lactococcus mastitis should be a serious concern for dairy producers. Lactococcus thrives in the environment, including sand bedded stalls. Many samples show resistance to the most common mastitis therapies and producers often express frustration with treatment response. Lactococcus infections are similar to those caused by S. uberis and Staph aureus. They can result in cows with high somatic cell counts, poor antibiotic response, and an increased risk of spread to other cows. As with any mastitis pathogen, focus should be placed on prevention. Proper milking routines, bedding management, and well functioning milking systems are all keys to prevention. Culturing high somatic cell count cows is vital as well. For those herds where Lactococcus has been identified, it is advised that animals confirmed with Lactococcus be segregated from the rest of the herd and ultimately culled if they do not respond to antibiotic therapy. As always, work with you veterinarian when concerned with abnormally high somatic cell counts, mastitis, and poor antibiotic response.



2023 Dairy Producers Meeting

To Be Held At Shady Maple
129 Toddy Drive East Earl, PA 17519

Formal Invite To Follow



SAVE THE DATE
Thursday March 2nd,
2023



Pain Medicine for Disbudding/dehorning

James Shissler, VMD

What is the difference in disbudding vs. dehorning in calves? Less than 8 weeks of age, the horn tissue is just a bud, not yet firmly attached to the skull. After 8 weeks, the bud fuses to the skull to become the horn. It is preferable to disbud calves as young as possible, less than 8 weeks of age, and ideally less than 1 month old.

Whether caustic paste, mechanical disbudding, or cautery with hot iron is used, pain medicine is to be used according to current welfare standards (FARM program). Most if not all have received info from the milk company or from us, the vets, on disbudding, and/or dehorning protocols.

There are 2 main pain control methods.

1. Lidocaine is a local anesthetic. It makes the area numb so that little pain is felt during the burning process. It must be injected in the proper locations on both sides of the head, 10-15 minutes prior to disbudding/dehorning to give it time to take effect. The numbing action wears off after an hour though, so a secondary pain control is needed.
2. Pain/anti-inflammatory medicine. There are more choices here. Meloxicam tablets, 3 tablets per 100 lbs. put in the milk in the morning prior to the procedure, or at least at the time of the procedure.
Or Banamine transdermal. Placed on back morning or at time of procedure.

All the pain medications are fairly inexpensive and easy to use, so should not be a deterrent to provide humane care to the calves, and many say the calves are much less stressed and continue drinking like nothing happened, are much easier to handle during the process, and aren't depressed or rubbing their heads in discomfort.

Standard Service Hours:

7 AM -5 PM, M-F

7 AM - 12 PM, SAT



**Call charges dependent upon time call is received*

Extended Service/Emergency:

24 hours/7 days a week



Typical Business Office Hours: M-F 7 AM to 5 PM

