



# AG NEWS

## Certain Over-The-Counter Antimicrobials To Move Under Veterinary Oversight

The number of antimicrobials available for use in both human and animals is somewhat limited. It is unlikely that new classes or types of antimicrobials will be available anytime soon. Additionally, we continue to see the development of new strains of various microbes in both human and animal medicine that are resistant to currently available antimicrobials.

On June 11, 2021, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized Guidance for Industry (GFI) #263 requesting that participating animal drug companies voluntarily transition certain antimicrobials from over-the-counter availability to veterinary prescription required over a two-year period. June 11, 2023, is the target date to introduce new prescription labels into the market.

GFI #263 is part of an FDA effort to address antimicrobial resistance. The concept is that medically important antimicrobial drugs should only be used in animals when necessary for the treatment, control, or prevention of specific diseases and with veterinary consultation and oversight. In addition to the focus on animal medicine, similar efforts are ongoing in human health care settings with a focus on judicious use of antimicrobials.

GFI #263 is an expansion of GFI #213. Many producers will recall GFI #213 as guidance that now requires a veterinary feed directive or prescription for medically important antimicrobials used in animal feed or drinking water. GFI #213 also eliminated the use of medically important

antimicrobials for animal growth promotion.

Medically important antimicrobials are those products with importance in human medicine. Examples commonly used in beef cattle include antibiotic such as tetracycline and penicillin. Products considered non-medically important in human medicine, such as ionophores used in feed, like monensin and lasalocid, are still available without veterinary oversight.

Currently only 4 percent of medically important antimicrobials are marketed as OTC products for animals. This includes products for companion animals, horses, and food animals. Once the recommendations in GFI #263 are fully implemented, all dosage forms of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in animals may only be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and only when necessary for the treatment, control or prevention of specific diseases. Although animal owners will still have access to medically important antimicrobials, they will need to consult their veterinarian to obtain a prescription.

As a producer, there are ways to prepare for these changes. First, if you do not have an existing relationship with a veterinarian—develop one. Successful treatment of disease and the appropriate use of antimicrobials work best when veterinarians and cattlemen work as a team. Developing this relationship provides the opportunity to strategically evaluate herd health protocols, animal

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welfare, biosecurity, management strategies, and other operational activities. This relationship can result in economic savings, as well as, enhanced protection of resources.

It is important to remember that a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship is required before a veterinarian can legally write a prescription. Veterinarians can also guide producers on accurately meeting antimicrobial label requirements, including appropriate use and withdrawal. Additionally, treatment protocols and record keeping measures can be developed if not already present in an operation.

Many stakeholders, including consumers, have an increased interest in the judicious use of antimicrobials. It is necessary for beef producers and veterinarians to work collaboratively to respond to changing guidance and requirements so that these medications are effective and available for years to come. Cattlemen and veterinarians working together can make an impact on decreasing the development of infectious agents with resistance. These efforts will contribute to improved medical outcomes to protect antimicrobial options for both animals and people.

*Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, OSU Veterinary Clinical Sciences*

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## 2023 Cattlemen's Conference – Blueprint For The Future

**Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist**

The 2023 Cattlemen's Conference – Blueprint For The Future will be held in Stillwater on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The program will address a variety of topics that are challenging the beef industry and promises to be informative, exciting and timely. We have assembled a dynamic group of speakers for this conference. We will be covering topics relevant to all beef industry segments, consumers, commercial operations and purebred breeders alike. Our objective is to provide information, stimulate thought and conversation, and quite literally offer a "Blueprint For The Future." This conference will meet in-person with a schedule full of nationally renowned speakers and panel discussions.

Topics covered will include:

- Land stewardship for improved soil health and surviving drought
- Information about the end product from the National Beef Audit
- Trends in beef products and consumer demand
- Effectiveness of selection indices
- Impact of genomics and phenotypic data on the prediction of genetic values
- Selection for extremes (muscling, marbling, body depth and late day morbidity)
- Ethics in the showing and in marketing
- Report from competing protein sources
- How consumer and economic trends will influence the beef industry in the future
- Emerging trends and the market outlook
- Keynote speaker Dr. Frank Mitloehner the "greenhouse gas guru"

The conference will also include evaluation of live breeding and market cattle. The panel discussions will allow all in attendance to ask questions of industry experts. The \$200 registration fee covers meals and all parts of the program. To register for the conference, motel information and to access a detailed conference schedule visit: [Cattlemen's Congress](#)

*Blueprint for the Future*  
**CATTLEMEN'S**  
CONFERENCE

## Garden planting starts with control of weeds, insects and diseases

Although gardening can be considered a leisure activity, it also requires a fair amount of effort. Because of the effort put in to plant a garden or install a new landscape, it can be very disheartening to have it succumb to insects, diseases and weeds.

To effectively control these nemeses of the garden, control must begin before the first seeds or plants go into the ground. Cultural control practices are ways of modifying the garden environment to hamper pests' breeding, feeding and shelter habits. Cultural control practices can help reduce the need for pesticides while still maintaining a healthy garden.

When you have a healthy garden, the crops are less susceptible to pest damage, so it makes sense that using resistant varieties and certified plants is an important cultural control method in a gardener's defense against pests.

When buying seeds or plants, try to choose those with built-in resistance to diseases and nematodes. If gardeners have to choose, it's better to forego some production capability in favor of the increased pest resistance.

During the growing season, stressed plants can lose their resistance to pests, so be sure the crop has the water and nutrients it needs. When shopping for vegetable seeds and plants, check the labels for abbreviations similar to these that are used to designate various types of pest re-

sistance or tolerance:

- A - Alternaria stem canker; ALS - angular leaf spot; ANTH - anthracnose; CMV - cucumber mosaic virus; DM - downy mildew; F - Fusarium (race 1); FF - Fusarium (races 1 & 2); L - leafspot; MDM - maize dwarf mosaic; N - nematode; NCLB - northern corn leaf blight; PM - powdery mildew; SCLB - southern corn leaf blight; St - Stemphylium (gray leaf spot); SW - Stewart's wilt; TLS - target leaf spot; TMV - tobacco mosaic virus; and V - Verticillium

Many ornamentals are susceptible to a variety of foliar diseases. For example, garden phlox, zinnias and crapemyrtles are susceptible to the powdery mildew fungal disease. In most cases, varieties are available that are resistant to these common diseases. When visiting your local nurseries and plant stores, look for plants labeled for disease resistance. Some plants are certified or grown and inspected under sterile or quarantined conditions. Certified plants may cost more than others, but the certification guarantees they are disease-free. Strawberries and potatoes are among crops which may be offered as certified plants.

Gardeners put in so much work to make their landscapes look good and to grow productive crops. Following these steps will help ensure you have a great gardening season.

### Lahoma Wheat Field Day

May 19, 2023

- 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at North Central Research Station (1 mile west of Lahoma on Highway 60).
- Topics will include wheat varieties, breeding, fertility, disease and pest and weed management. Continuing education units have been applied for, and lunch will be provided.



**State of Oklahoma  
Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry  
has released**

**Important Information on Private Applicator CEUs for 2023**

Due to extenuating circumstances associated with the implementation of the continuing education program for private applicators, ODAFF has decided to make an exception to the maximum number of CEUs a private applicator can obtain in a single year.

**This is a one-time exception from the maximum of 10 CEUs in one year for private applicators:**

The maximum number of CEUs any private applicator will need is 16 for this cycle.

- If they need 16 CEUs and obtained at least one CEU in 2020, 2021, or 2022, they will be able to get the remaining 15 CEUs this year without penalty.
- If they need 12 CEUs and obtained at least one CEU in 2021 or 2022, they will be able to get the remaining 11 CEUs this year without penalty.
- If they need 8 or 4 CEUs, they may still get them this year.

Additionally, if a private applicator acquired more than 10 CEUs before 2023, they will all count towards their total.

**The CEU exception for private applicators is only valid through December 31, 2023. Once this recertification cycle has ended, the CEU rules will revert to the 10 CEU maximum per year.**

If applicators have any questions on how many CEUs they need or when they tested, they may email Debbie Mandrell at [Debbie.Mandrell@ag.ok.gov](mailto:Debbie.Mandrell@ag.ok.gov) or call (405) 522-5949.



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Nelson, CED".

**Rick Nelson  
Extension Educator, Ag/4-H & CED**

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*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact Rick Nelson, Ag Educator at (580)237-1228 or [rick.nelson@okstate.edu](mailto:rick.nelson@okstate.edu) at least two weeks prior to the event.*