

Animal Treatment Protocol Guidelines

Residue prevention, whether for meat or milk, begins before you even treat an animal. Preparation and consistency are keys to ensuring you can effectively treat an animal and ensure you avoid any subsequent residues.

Before you treat any animals:

- Develop written treatment protocols with your veterinarian using products that are approved by the FDA for use in lactating dairy cattle. These don't need to be complicated.
 - Use the **MDA Animal Treatment Plan Form** if you don't have your own.
 - Keep your protocols up-to-date! Review them every 6 months or whenever you have a change.
- Create a good animal identification system and determine how you will segregate any treated animals.

When you are ready to treat an individual animal:

- Gather your supplies:
 - Treatment equipment
 - Brightly colored duct tape, paint, tag, plastic bands, etc.
- FOLLOW your protocols! Decide what you will treat the animal with, how it will be administered, and the duration of treatment.
- Move the cow to a treatment area, if possible, for treatment.
- Document the treatment
 - Use the provided **Daily Treatment Record Form**, if you don't have your own, to record the following information:
 - Cow ID
 - Date and time of treatment
 - Location
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
- Calculate and record the withdrawal times for milk and meat.

Treating your animals:

- Use appropriate injection sites, such as neck muscles, in order to minimize injection site lesions and tissue damage.
- Follow instructions as stated on the drug label.
- If a veterinarian gives permission to use the drug in a way that is not stated on the label (Extra label drug use), ensure you follow your veterinarians labeled instructions.

After treatment:

- For dairy animals, withhold affected milk from the tank for the prescribed withdrawal times.
- For dairy animals, test the tank BEFORE loading the truck.
- For dairy animals, record the dates of any residue tests and if any affected milk entered the tank.
- Use a premarketing review process or the MDA **Pre-marketing Checklist** before marketing an animal for meat.

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