

## Best Practices for On-Farm Drug Storage on Dairies

Residue prevention, whether for meat or milk, begins before you even treat an animal. Proper storage of drugs helps to minimize the chance of using the wrong drug, and is also important in maintaining the efficacy of the drugs themselves. This document serves as a resource on how to implement best practices for drug storage on your farm. All items listed below are PMO Grade A dairy farm **requirements**, unless noted otherwise. If you do not produce a Grade A product, MDA still strongly recommends following the below practices as a good drug residue prevention practice.

### 1. Separate your drugs:

- On dairy farms, store lactating and non-lactating drugs in separate areas to avoid confusion. They can be stored in the same room, but in separate locations. Labeling the storage areas also helps employees and farm workers know where these drugs should be kept.
- Drugs that cannot be used in cattle 20 months of age or older should be stored in a separate room or building from the milkhouse on dairy farms. These drugs should only be used in youngstock and growing heifers. **Please Note!** This is a best practice recommendation, NOT a PMO requirement.

### 2. Store drugs properly:

- Some drugs require specific storage conditions to maintain their effectiveness. Ask your veterinarian if any of the drugs require special storage conditions, such as refrigeration or storage in a dark location.

### 3. Label drugs properly:

- All drugs must be labeled properly. This is required by law and also helps provide farm workers with accurate information on appropriate uses, dosage and withdrawal times.
- Work with your veterinarian to ensure all of your drugs are labeled accurately.
- Table 2 provides a list of the specific labeling requirements for different groups of drugs.

### 4. Dispose of expired drugs:

- Most drugs have an expiration date. These dates are used to mark a time when the drug may no longer be effective when used and when withholding times and manufacturer specifications are still valid.
- Maintain a system for reviewing your drug inventory and ensuring expired drugs have been removed. For example, once a year, take inventory of the drugs that you have on your property and remove of any that are expired.
- Return unused drugs to your veterinarian or consult with your veterinarian for proper disposal options. Solid medications may also be dropped off at medication collection boxes that are located all over the state. You can find the nearest one to you by visiting this website:  
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications>

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Table 1. Drug Labeling Requirements

Group of Drug	Required Label Components
All drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name of the drug;</li> <li>• A list of active ingredients;</li> <li>• Directions for use;</li> <li>• Withholding times; and</li> <li>• The name of manufacturer.</li> </ul>
Prescription drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The statement “Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian”;</li> <li>• Any special cautionary statements; and</li> <li>• The name and address of the dispensing veterinarian.</li> </ul>
Extra-label use drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name and address of the dispensing veterinarian;</li> <li>• The class/species ID of animal;</li> <li>• Directions for use (dose, frequency, route of administration, duration of therapy); and</li> <li>• The veterinarian specified withholding times.</li> </ul>

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