

# 6 Steps to Zero Residues

Animal Care – Milk and Meat Quality – Consumer Trust

**Step 1:** Develop and review Animal Treatment Protocols with your herd's veterinarian.

**Step 2:** Develop and maintain Animal Treatment Records.

Be sure to include:

- Cow ID, diagnosis, date, and time of treatment
- Drug used
- Amount of drug/frequency of administration
- Route of administration (IM, SubQ, IV, or Intramammary)
- Initials of person administering drug
- Withdrawal expiration date for milk and meat

Treatment Records can be kept in any way that is convenient for you – notebooks, binders, computer software programs.

Make sure you keep the Treatment Records for at least two years!

**Step 3:** Mark treated cows with highly visible indicators – before treatment.

Plastic leg bands



Red or orange duct tape



Paint markings on udder



**Step 4:** TEST the **INDIVIDUAL** cow (fresh and treated) *before* commingling into the bulk tank. Withhold treated milk for the complete prescribed withdrawal time, even if the test shows milk is clear.

For cows being treated at dry off, mark ankles with bands or duct tape AND mark the lower leg area and udder with paint just in case the cow gets back in with lactating cows or is not moved to dry cow pen!

**Step 5:** TEST the **TANK** *before* loading onto truck. Work with your dairy field representative on the correct procedure.

**Step 6:** Check Animal Treatment Records before any animal leaves your farm for any reason. Verify that it has met all withdrawal periods for any drug used.

Helpful Hints:

- Follow all drug label directions.
- Separate treated cows from general milking herd and milk last.
- Limit treatment injection sites as label states (generally 10cc IM and 15cc SubQ per injection site)
- When animals leave the farm, record animal ID, animal destination, and obtain slaughter backtag numbers from livestock market or processing plant.

Work with your veterinarian, dairy inspector, and field representative to ensure all food from your dairy is free from drug residues. For more information, go to [www.nationaldairyfarm.com/dairy-farm-standards/antibiotic-stewardship](http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/dairy-farm-standards/antibiotic-stewardship) or contact the MDA Dairy & Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300. **Updated 4/2/2020.**