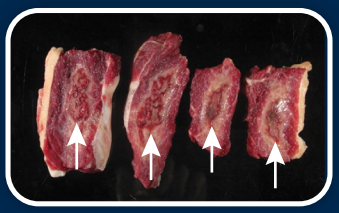
DID YOU KNOW?

- Flunixin can be very irritating to tissue, causing lesions in the meat
- Lesions trigger inspectors to test the animal
- Lesions also lead to extra trimming and loss of revenue



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Using Injectable Flunixin Meglumine

What is Flunixin Meglumine?

Flunixin Meglumine is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug approved for use in cattle for the treatment of fever and inflammation associated with bovine respiratory disease and acute mastitis. It is sold under many trade names, such as Banamine, Flunazine, and Prevail.

What are the FDA approved instructions for flunixin meglumine use in cattle?

The FDA approved label for flunixin meglumine specifies a dose of 1-2ml/100 pounds of bodyweight, administered IV (intravascular), once a day (or divided into two doses twelve hours apart). The treatment duration varies for disease indication from one to three days. At this dose, duration and route of administration, the label recommendation is 36 hours for milk withdrawal and 4 days for slaughter withdrawal. Flunixin meglumine is not approved for use in dry cattle, veal calves, or bulls intended for breeding. Use in these animals would be considered extra-label-drug-use (ELDU) as it varies from the label instructions. Consult with your veterinarian prior to flunixin meglumine use in these animal classes.

What are other commonly used routes of administration for flunixin meglumine?

Because of the difficult nature of administering jugular IV injections to some animals, many producers give flunixin intramuscular (IM). Unfortunately, IM administration of this drug causes significant tissue irritation and can result in injection site lesions which need to be trimmed. This use is also considered ELDU. Ease of administration is not an allowed reason for ELDU. Producers are encouraged to administer flunixin IV only to avoid these issues and comply with the requirements.

Why do flunixin meglumine residues occur?

ELDU of flunixin IM is highly associated with violative drug residues. IM use of a single dose of flunixin can extend milk withdrawal to greater than 96 hours and slaughter withdrawal to greater than 10 days. Even if the longer withdrawal times are used, the presence of injection site lesions associated with these injections often prompts inspectors and veterinarians to further investigate and conduct additional testing for residues. Using flunixin per the label instructions is the best way to avoid residues from this drug.

For further information go to **www.mda.state.mn.us/residue-preventionmn.us/residue-prevention**