



DQC
Dairy Quality Center
a division of Agri-Education, Inc.

BEEF TRIM



VPP Beef Niche Market Cull Cow earns a premium - BCS #3

Unworthy of selling into the VPP Beef Niche Market - BCS #1

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Southwest Region

"The Testing Has Been Set in Motion"

There has been much "chatter" regarding the FDA Milk Sampling and the correlation between drug residues in the milk and in cull cow carcasses. FDA regulators and consumers share your desire to produce food that is safe and free of violative drug residues.

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine is in charge of testing for violative residues in milk once it has been detected in the cull cow beef. Media articles over the last year have indicated the tests that will be used to search for residues of at least 27 drugs.

Following is a listing of the drug residues that FDA thinks might be in milk:

Ampicillin	Cephapirin
Cloxacillin	Penicillin G
Erythromycin	Tylosin
Enrofloxacin	Sarafloxacin
Chlortetracycline	Oxytetracycline
Tetracycline	Doxycycline
Sulfachloropyridazine	Sulfadiazine
Sulfamerazine	Sulfadimethoxine
Sulfamethazine	Sulfapyridine
Suflaquinolaxaline	Sulfathiazole
Tripelennamine	Thiabendazole
Pirlimycin	Flunixin
Bacitracin	Virginiamycin
Tilmicosin	

The logic FDA is using is that if these drugs are found in a cull market cow, the same drugs may be in milk from other cows in your herd.

How can you keep from appearing on "the list" with violative tissue residues? Following are guidelines to consider and implement to prevent future negative recognition. These are good discussion points to share with your managers and employees.

- Have you asked your veterinarian to review drugs used and monitor the supply of drugs on the dairy? Who administers the treatments and are they trained and knowledgeable of treatment regimes? Do you have a drug list?
- Who is responsible for diagnosing and starting treatments on cows?
- What training has this person had?
- Do you have written protocols for any drugs used?
- How regularly are drug use and treatment protocols reviewed by you and by your veterinarian?
- Are treatment records accurate and adequate to understand and follow? (Step-by-step format).
- Do you know what drugs are being used? Compare amount purchased, used and discarded. Are you accountable?
- What drugs are to be used on dairy replacements?
- What drug is to be used on adult animals? Are they on the list to the left?

Milkers need to know which animals are treated! Promote communication between milkers, management, and others to understand the need to use drug records.

Meat quality is just as important as milk quality. Before culling check those treatment records! Too much of a good thing can lead to failure as commonly known, "It's the dose that makes the poison" or causes the illegal residue.

Procedural drift comes naturally unless you are diligent on the dairy. Keep up the good work and remind employees to check protocols, actions and drug records. All of these can work for you but only if ALL are followed consistently. Can you account for all of the drugs purchased?