In order to reduce or eliminate problems with sulfamethazine and other drug residues in our nation’s milk supply, the Food and Drug Administration’s Milk Safety Branch, Northeast Dairy Practices Council, and National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments have participated in issuing guidelines on the use, storage and labelling of animal drugs on the dairy farm. The policy reflects changes to the federal Pasteurized Milk Ordinance on the subject which became effective October 1, 1989.

Use Requirements

1. Use only approved and properly labelled drugs on dairy animals, strictly following label directions for use including prescribed withholding times and cautionary statement instructions.

2. An adequate record keeping system must be maintained to record the administration of drugs (including marking of lactating cows from which milk must be withheld).

3. Use extra-label drugs, (drugs used in a manner not in accordance with manufacturers approved labelling) only when dispensed by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian where an appropriate veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists.

4. Unapproved and/or improperly labelled medicinals/drugs are not to be used to treat dairy animals. The use of chloramphenicol (include extra-label) in any dairy animal is prohibited in West Virginia. The use of sulfamethazine (including extra-label) in lactating dairy animals is prohibited in West Virginia.

Storage Requirements

1. Medicinals/drugs intended for treatment of lactating dairy animals must be stored separately from those for use on non-lactating dairy animals. Separate shelves or cabinets, refrigerators, or other storage facilities must be labelled as for either lactating or non-lactating dairy animal medicinals/drugs.

2. All medicinals/drugs must be stored in such a manner that they cannot contaminate the milk or milk contact surfaces of equipment, container or utensils.

3. Drug storage facilities must be accessible to the regulatory agency.

4. Unapproved and/or improperly labelled medicinals/drugs are not to be stored in the milkhouse, milking barn, stable, parlor or related storage areas. A label must have a cattle indication to be in the storage area unless extra-labelled.
**Labelling Requirements**

1. Only approved and properly labelled medicinals/drugs may be used to treat dairy animals. Properly labelling must include:

   - The name and address of the manufacturer or distributor (for O.T.C. medicinals/drugs) or veterinary practitioner dispensing the product (for Rx and Extra-Label Use medicinals/drugs).
   - Directions for use and prescribed withholding times.
   - Cautionary statements, if needed.

**Exemptions**

1. Topical antiseptics, wound dressings (unless intended for direct injection into the teat), vaccines and other biologicals, and dosage form vitamins and/or mineral products are exempt from the above labelling and storage requirements except they must be stored in such a manner that milk and milk contact surfaces are not contaminated. Where practical, such items should be stored with the non-lactating medicinals/drugs.

2. In the case of a drug container that is too small or otherwise unable to accommodate a label bearing the required information, the label may be affixed to the next largest package size or affixed to a whirl-pack or similar container which will hold the small drug container.

The West Virginia Department of Health is adopting the above guidelines. Sanitarians will debit violations during inspections as follows:

1. Drug administration equipment properly handled and stored (item 16h) – 2 points.
2. Non-segregated storage (item 16i) – 7 points.
3. Storage of antibiotics and medicinals which could contaminate milk or milk equipment (item 16i) – 7 points.
4. Misbranded, unapproved, non-dairy animal drugs, etc. (item16i) – 7 points.

The total of all debits for item 16, however, must not exceed 7 points.

**References**

*Pasteurized Milk Ordinance*

**History**

**Attachments**