

Responsible Antibiotic Use

Antibiotics are critical for the treatment, control, and prevention of infectious diseases in animals. Antibiotic stewardship refers to the actions taken by veterinarians, livestock owners, and their employees to prevent common diseases and use antibiotics responsibly. Follow along to understand your role and take action to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics.

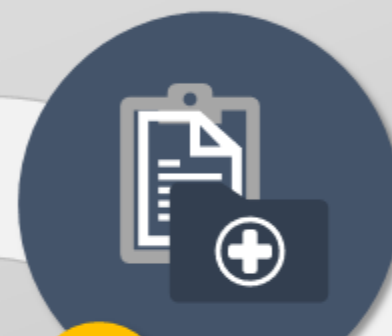
- Maintain a valid VCPR with a CA-licensed veterinarian
- Discuss a herd health plan
- Be sure antibiotic supply is appropriate for farm needs
- Store antibiotics according to the FDA approved label and in a secure location
- Use antibiotics according to a veterinarian's instructions
- Record treatments, withdrawals, and outcomes
- Check expiration dates
- Dispose of unused or expired antibiotics appropriately



Establish and maintain a relationship with a CA-licensed veterinarian.



Monitor animals for exposure to or evidence of illness and apply husbandry practices that may limit the need for or duration of antibiotic therapy.



Keep accurate production and treatment records.



Check your farm for responsible antibiotic use practices.



Continue to take an active role in the practice of antibiotic stewardship.



Veterinarians take many factors into consideration when selecting the right antibiotic and course of therapy for each situation.*

*For more details please reference CDFA's *Guidelines for Judicious Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock*



A veterinarian must determine the need for antibiotics in order to dispense, prescribe, or write a VFD.



Antibiotics can only be used for therapeutic reasons in ill or at-risk animals.