CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Karen Ross, Secretary

December 20, 2023

NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FEED AND LIVESTOCK DRUG INDUSTRIES

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP) and Livestock Drugs Program (LDP) has oversight authority over all commercial livestock feed and livestock drugs sold within or into the State of California. The Program's authority lies within Food and Agricultural Code Division 7, Chapter 6, Section 14901 et seq. and Chapter 4, Section 14200 et seq. California has adopted ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the dairy and livestock industry. The CFRP and LDP support progress in this area through CDFA's many research and grant initiatives, such as the Livestock Enteric Methane Emission Reduction Research Program (LEMER-RP).

The CFRP and LDP have noticed an increased interest in conducting research, marketing, and selling various feed products, which claim to reduce methane emissions in ruminants. Each ingredient used in livestock feed, including animal drugs, and the labeling and marketing claims associated with the product are regulated under CDFA and United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) authority. **Products with methane reduction claims to be offered for sale within or into California and used in commercial feed or livestock drugs must first be approved by U.S. FDA. As of December 20, 2023, there is no state or federal approval for a methane reduction claim for any livestock feed or drug products, and there is no California established process for verifying efficacy and approving methane reduction claims.** Some products are composed of U.S. FDA approved feed ingredients or animal drugs, which are acceptable for use in feed, however, currently do not have a recognized enteric reduction claim. In contrast, 'novel' products have not been evaluated by U.S. FDA for safety in food producing animals; therefore, these products are not acceptable and not currently approved for use in commercial feed. **Effective immediately, the LDP will not approve or renew Provisional Livestock Drug registrations that contain ingredients not approved by U.S. FDA and intended for use in animal species, which produce food for human consumption.**

If a demonstration feeding trial using a novel or not currently approved product intends to have egg, milk, or meat products enter the human food chain, a U.S. FDA Food Use Authorization is needed. When designing research trials with novel or not currently approved products, CFRP and LDP encourage early communication with U.S. FDA so that trials are conducted to provide adequate safety and efficacy data for a food additive petition or new animal drug application. Links to lists of approved feed ingredients and animal drugs, and information about the approval processes are available at our new Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program webpage on the topic: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/FeedandFeedIngredients.html.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JENNA M. LEAL
Jenna M. Leal
Environmental Program Manager I