



Checklist for Prudent Antibiotic Use on the Dairy

The Goals of Prudent Drug Use are to:

1. Promote the responsible use of antibiotics
2. Slow the rate of developing antibiotic resistance
3. Prolong the usefulness of antibiotics used to treat cattle diseases, and
4. Protect the integrity of the food supply.

The Principles of Prudent Use are:

1. Use antibiotics to treat specific bacterial diseases
2. Administer antibiotics according to the label or veterinarian's written instructions
3. Non-treatment uses of antibiotics should be discouraged

With these Goals and Principles in mind, go through the following checklist to assess your antibiotic uses on the farm:

1. All calves receive adequate amounts of high-quality colostrum to reduce illness.
2. Calf nutrition is optimized so that antibiotics for growth are not needed.
3. Calf and cow exposure to manure is minimized
4. Written treatment protocols for cow and calf diseases are used.
5. Sick fresh cows are treated with antibiotics based on a protocol developed by the herd veterinarian.
6. Antibiotic bottle label or veterinary prescription label directions are followed:
 - a. Right antibiotic for the disease problem
 - b. Correct route of administration
 - c. Correct dose for the weight of the animal
 - d. Proper duration of treatment
 - e. Correct withdrawal periods for milk and meat
7. Overall, the cows receive a balanced diet and have few health problems
8. A Veterinarian-planned vaccination program is used for cows and calves
9. Our facilities limit heat and mud stress
10. We routinely provide worker training to ensure antibiotics are used properly