

# ***"Help! I couldn't pick up my feed !!?"***

## **Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Fact Sheet**

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On January 1, 2017 some new laws regarding the use of medications IN ANIMAL FEED and WATER went into effect. The new laws are part of a plan started by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). The goal of their plan is to ensure safe and practical use of medications in feed and water to help keep animals, and the food products that they provide, safe for human consumption.

### **Q. So what has changed?**

**A.** As of January 1<sup>st</sup> you will now need a **Veterinary Feed Directive** or **VFD** to purchase some medicated feeds / feed additives or top dresses. Additionally, some medications that are used in water, will now require a prescription from a veterinarian. Some products that you have purchased easily in the past will now require special forms from the vet. The new laws DO NOT affect injections, skin applications or oral drenches. The new laws are focused on feed / water medications that are **MEDICALLY IMPORTANT** (in terms of human health) -- NOT ALL MEDICATIONS ARE AFFECTED.

### **Q. How do I get a VFD or prescription?**

**A.** To have a veterinary feed directive (VFD), or to receive a prescription for a medication that is used in water, you must have a valid-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) with your veterinarian. This means having the vet out to your farm to see your animals within the year. The VCPR is an important relationship because it allows you and your vet to best communicate and understand your goals and animal's health. With a VCPR, your vet can confidently provide the VFD or prescription that can be used to get the products you need.

### **Q. What is the actual VFD or prescription?**

**A.** Understand that the VFD and a prescription are very similar BUT different. The VFD is a document that will be sent / provided to you and your feed mill. The VFD is used as your "pass" from the vet to use medicated feed items. A VFD is good for 6 months and must be renewed if the product it is written for is still in use. You must keep a copy of your VFD in a safe place for two years. A **PRESCRIPTION** is for use with water medications and follows slightly different guidelines.

### **Q. How do I know which items need a VFD / prescription?**

**A.** You will not be able to purchase certain products without the documentation. However, understand that there are limitations on which feed medications can be used together in combination (even if purchased individually). This can get very confusing, and your veterinarian can help you in this situation. It's always a good idea to contact your veterinarian with questions about feed compatibility!

### **Quick Facts:**

- \* No VFD/prescription needed for Corid (Amprolium) for coccidia
- \* No VFD/prescription needed for Laslocid (Bovatec), Monensin (Rumensin), Decoquinat (Deccox)
- \* Understand that there may be restrictions using these drugs in combination with VFD drugs (ask your vet)

If you need help with the VFD/prescription process we would be happy to help!  
Call the Mount Vernon Animal Hospital office at (740) 397.6958!