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The Veterinary Feed Directive (or VFD) regulation has recently been expanded to include several antibiotics deemed “medically important” for human use. The VFD regulation is a federal regulation being enforced by the Food and Drug Administration in order to encourage the responsible use of antibiotics in animal feeds. On January 1st, 2017 new regulations will go into effect regarding on-farm antibiotic use. The regulation is aimed at reducing or eliminating the use of antibiotics that are considered “medically important” for human use. This will bring the therapeutic use of antibiotics in feed or water under the supervision of veterinarians.

The feed manufacturers, veterinarians, suppliers and producers will all have a shared responsibility in following the new regulation. As a medicated feed manufacturer, Associated Feed & Supply CO. will require a copy of each customer’s VFD before the VFD feed can be manufactured. If the VFD is incomplete, it will be returned with a request for additional information. Associated Feed & Supply CO. cannot manufacture or ship feed requiring a VFD on or several days before the “expiration date” of the VFD. The expiration date of the VFD is intended to be the last day that the animals will consume the VFD feed.

Distributors (i.e. feed stores) are required to file a one-time notice with the FDA of your intent to distribute VFD drugs. A copy of which is being provided with this letter. VFDs cannot be filled if they do not contain the required information. Distributors are required to keep copies of the VFDs that they have received from their customers for a minimum of two years and be able to provide the required documentation to the FDA if or when it is requested.

Producers (i.e. ranchers or farmers) are required to provide a copy of the VFD to the manufacturer or distributor before the feed can be manufactured or purchased. The VFD must be issued by a licensed veterinarian and must contain all of the required information in order to be valid. Producers are not allowed to feed VFD feeds after the expiration date listed on the VFD. Producers are required to keep copies of their VFDs for a minimum of two years and be able to provide the required documentation to the FDA if or when it is requested.

For more information on the updated VFD regulation please go to <http://www.fda.gov/safefeed>. Once you are on the website scroll down until you see the section titled “Medicated Feed” written in blue. For additional copies of the brochures, click on the link that says “VFD Brochures” and scroll down to the box titled “Veterinary Feed Directive Brochures”. They are available in both English and Spanish. Please feel free to contact your sales representative for additional information or any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evangeline Shears".

Evangeline Shears

Quality Assurance & Environmental Manager

Associated Feed & Supply Co.

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