



To ensure a safe food supply, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the use of animal medications. Some medications have been approved for use without a veterinarian's permission, while others require permission. Recently, the FDA changed how some antibiotic medications, which are important to human medicine, are used for animal feed. **After January 1, 2017, these medications will require a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) order to be used in medicated feed.**

#### What is a medicated feed and why is it used?

Medicated feed is feed with a drug added to it. Medicated feed is fed to animals to prevent illness or treat an animal when it is sick. Medicated feeds are just one of the good animal care and well-being practices farmers and animal owners use to keep their animals healthy.

#### Is all feed medicated?

No, when you purchase feed, you have the option to buy feed without medications mixed into it.

#### Who is impacted by these changes?

Livestock owners, including youth with animal projects, who have decided to feed their animals medicated feeds.

For more information on the Veterinary Feed Directive, visit:

- <http://www.fda.gov>
- <http://www.datcp.wi.gov> | Program/Services | Livestock Feed/Pet Food

#### Beginning January 1, 2017, you will need a Veterinary Feed Directive to buy feeds containing:

- Chlortetracycline (CTC)
- Chlortetracycline/Sulfamethazine
- Chlortetracycline/Sulfamethazine/Penicillin
- Hygromycin B
- Lincomycin
- Oxytetracycline (OTC)
- Oxytetracycline/Neomycin
- Penicillin
- Sulfadimethoxine/Ormetoprim
- Tylosin
- Tylosin/Sulfamethazine
- Virginiamycin

Note: Tilimicosin (Pulmotil, Tilmovet), Avilamycin (Kafault), Florfenicol (Aquaflor, Nuflo) currently require a VFD order.



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# Antibiotics in Feed

## An Exhibitor's Guide to the Veterinary Feed Directive



### What is a Veterinary Feed Directive?

A Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is an order from a veterinarian that gives permission for you to order or buy medicated feed containing certain drugs.

### What is a VFD drug and why did the FDA change their process?

A VFD drug is an antibiotic used for both human and animal medicine. FDA regulates both human and animal drugs, and the VFD changes are FDA's response to concerns about production uses of antibiotics in animals. Going forward, the antibiotics used in animals and humans will only be allowed to control or prevent disease, not for production uses, such as increased rate of gain.

### Are all antibiotics affected?

No, not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected; and some drugs used in water will now require a prescription from a veterinarian.

### How does a VFD order work?

A VFD order is similar to a prescription you would get from your human doctor, however a veterinarian will be giving you a VFD order for a medicated feed. VFDs are not prescriptions; a prescription requires a pharmacist, a VFD does not require a pharmacist.

### How do you get a VFD order?

To get a VFD order, you must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian. A VCPR means a veterinarian and a person who raises livestock (client) regularly work together to attend to the health of the client's animals, where the veterinarian regularly visits and provides advice about proper medication of the animals.



**SAMPLE FEED LABEL**

Medicated  
For control of infectious synovitis caused by  
*Mycoplasma synoviae*.

Complete Turkey Starter

**Active Drug Ingredient**  
Oxytetracycline.....0.022%

**Guaranteed Analysis**

Crude Protein, min.....	20.0%
Lysine, min.....	1.2%
Methionine, min.....	0.57%
Crude Fat, min.....	3.0%
Crude Fiber, min.....	4.0%
Calcium, min.....	0.8%
Calcium, max.....	1.3%
Phosphorus, min.....	0.65%
Salt, min.....	0.2%
Salt, min.....	0.7%

**Ingredients:** Grain products, plant protein products, processed grain by-products, monocalcium phosphate, dicalcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, salt, vegetable oil, choline chloride, natural flavors, roughage products, selenium yeast, manganous oxide, ferrous sulfate, zinc oxide, vitamin D supplement, mineral oil.

**Feeding Directions-** Feed as a sole ration to turkeys from 10 weeks of age until market age. Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh water.

**Warning-** This product has been formulated specifically for poultry and is not intended for other species.  
WITHDRAW 5 DAYS BEFORE SLAUGHTER.  
DO NOT ADMINISTER TO  
TURKEYS PRODUCING EGGS FOR  
HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

**Caution:** Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

ABC Feed Mill  
Anytown, WI 55555

Net wt. 50 lb. (22.67 kg)

Medicated feed labels always indicate the animals allowed to consume the feed.

This drug ingredient requires a VFD order from a veterinarian.

VFD drugs will always have this statement on the label.



### How do you know if you need a VFD order?

As seen in the example, feed labels of VFD drugs have the following statement: "Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian."

### What are examples of medications that will require a VFD order?

Examples of feed-grade medications moving to VFD drug status are chlortetracycline, tylosin and penicillin. The detailed list can be found at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

### Where can I buy feed with my VFD order?

You can buy VFD feeds at any mill, retailer or other establishment listed as a distributor or manufacturer with the FDA. The list can be found at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). If you are purchasing feed that requires a VFD order, you will need to present the VFD order before purchase.

### How do feed stores check for VFD orders?

Previously, VFD feeds were purchased without documentation at your feed store or mill. However, **starting January 1, 2017**, you must first present a VFD order, written by a veterinarian, to purchase VFD feeds. Either you or your veterinarian may forward a copy of the VFD order to your feed mill.

### How long is a VFD good for?

A VFD is only good for one order of feed to fill the duration of use specified by the veterinarian on the VFD order. No VFD expiration may exceed 6 months; some authorizations must be even shorter than 6 months, as indicated by the drug label. **It is important to note that the VFD feed may not be fed after the expiration date.**

### What records will I need to keep?

The original VFD order will be kept by the veterinarian for two years. The livestock owner and feed mill must keep copies of the VFD order on file for two years.