

5. SOP 2 – Feed and Water: Medicated and Non-Ruminant Feed

Medications that can be used in feed or water are listed in the *Compendium of Medicating Ingredients Brochure* (MIB) published by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. A veterinary feed prescription is required whenever dosages or usages differ from those described in the MIB.

A nutritionist is an effective resource to assist in developing rations and feeding protocols.

Managing the mixing of medicated feed takes planning and equipment that function properly. Keep feed mixing areas tidy to help manage fecal contamination from birds, rodents and other animals. When receiving feed or hay, take notice of anything unusual and if in doubt, ask about any chemical applications that could have occurred prior to harvesting the feed or bedding material.

- Copies of written and signed veterinary feed prescriptions are available for all extra-label use of feed or water medications. Keep the copies for a minimum of two years.
- When using wood chips or wood shavings for bedding, written or verbal assurance is recorded that treated wood or other chemical preservatives were not used.

a) Receiving and Storing Medicated Feed

- Feed delivery person is informed of unloading requirements for medicated feed or ingredients, including intended storage area or bin. Written evidence of unloading instructions, for example on invoice, is available.
- Delivery of medicating ingredients and medicated feed is cross-checked with ration or prescription so that correct products are received.
- Medicated ingredients and medicated feed have a separate and clearly labeled storage area or storage bins to prevent cross-contamination of non-medicated feedstuffs.
- Augers or other feed handling equipment used for medicated feed are flushed or cleaned after use, to avoid cross-contamination of non-medicated feed.

b) Mixing of Medicated Feed or Water

- Scales used must be tested for accuracy at least once per year, and are suitable to the range of weights of feed to be mixed.
- Those persons undertaking mixing and distribution of medicated feed understand standard procedures and type of information to record.
- Medications are mixed according to label directions and documented ration. Actual amounts mixed are recorded.
- If adding ingredients by hand, a system is in place to accurately determine the weight or volume of the feed mix to ensure accuracy with intended dosage levels.
- A system is in place to check on accuracy of feed mixing. Note this is subject to pending Medicated Feed regulations.
- A system is in place, for example flushing and/or sequencing rations, to avoid consumption of medicated feed by unintended cattle. This is especially important for cattle who are close to slaughter.
- Reprocessed or flushed feed is used or disposed in a manner to prevent contamination of other feedstuffs.

c) Feeding of Medicated Feed or Water

- Cattle pens are clearly identified to ensure medicated feed rations are delivered to the right cattle.
- If a water line is used to deliver medication, it is calibrated and flushed after use to avoid carry-over of drug residue. Note this is subject to pending Medicated Feed regulations.
- Medicated feed or water is fed according to label directions or written veterinary prescription.
- Actual amount of medicated feed fed is recorded and includes: ration, medicated ingredient or product, amount fed, date, pen identification, and initials of person doing the feeding. This applies to medicated feed or water with a specified withdrawal time period.
- Equipment used for medicated feed or water is cleaned, flushed or a system of sequencing is used to avoid cross-contamination of non-medicated feed. This includes portable water troughs, which are cleaned or removed when usage is complete.
- Staff or family members understand feeding procedures and what to do if an error occurs in feed delivery to cattle pens.

If something goes wrong:

- If feed is mixed with the incorrect amount of medication or wrong product, record the incidence, consult a veterinarian and record actions taken. This includes actions taken to avoid a potential chemical residue and what was done to avoid a repeat occurrence of the identified error. For example, actions could also include consultation with a nutritionist, holding cattle for a longer period, or in the case of feeding slaughter cattle – contacting the slaughter plant immediately.
- If medicated rations or water are fed to the wrong cattle, record the incidence and actions taken. See examples above.

d) Handling Non-Ruminant Feed

This includes feed for poultry, horses, swine, and pets which may contain ruminant by-products. The potential risk is the unintended feeding of ruminant material to cattle, which may result in the BSE prion being ingested by beef cattle. Make sure commercially-available colostrum and milk replacer used is approved for cattle as indicated on the label or invoice.

The VBP program requires:

- Feeds containing prohibited material (ruminant by-products) are not fed to beef cattle.
- Annual Prohibited Feed Affidavit from commercial feed suppliers for feed containing protein supplements is available, to emphasize the importance of avoiding prohibited feed materials in cattle feed.
- All non-ruminant feed is stored separately and clearly labeled to avoid inadvertent feeding to cattle, or cross-contamination with ruminant feeds. This includes bulk and bagged feed.
- Separate equipment is used for receiving (ie. auger), mixing and feeding non-ruminant feed to prevent cross-contamination of cattle feed. If common equipment is used, contact the CFIA for appropriate procedures to avoid potential contamination.

If something goes wrong:

- If non-ruminant feed is inadvertently fed, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for appropriate action. Check to see if the feed includes protein of ruminant origin. Record the incidence, type of feed or ration, and all actions taken.