



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Regional leaders featured at Alabama workshop on antimicrobial drug use in food animals***

**OAK BROOK, IL Aug. 11, 2015:** Regional leaders in livestock production, the veterinary community and the feed supply industry will be among the speakers at an Aug. 25 workshop in Hanceville, AL

Organized by Farm Foundation, NFP, the workshop is an opportunity for participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of two Guidance for Industry (GFIs) issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals, as well as the FDA's revised [Veterinary Feed Directive](#) (VFD). These actions mean some drugs will see label changes allowing only therapeutic uses, and veterinary oversight will be needed in the form of a veterinarian's prescription for the drug, direct administration by a veterinarian, or a veterinary consultation on disease management protocols.

The Aug. 25 workshop is targeted to pork, cattle, poultry and sheep producers, as well as veterinarians and feed suppliers in Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Missouri. The workshop will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT at the Bailey Center Auditorium, Wallace State Community College, 801 Main St. NW, Hanceville, AL.

There is no charge to participate, but advance registration is requested. Registration can be [completed online](#) or by going to the [Farm Foundation website](#). The workshop is also an opportunity for other stakeholders, such as state and federal agencies, colleges of veterinary medicine and university extension personnel, to gain insights into the changes needed to meet the requirements.

Providing information at this workshop will be:

- Craig Lewis, DVM, of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine;
- Charles P. Fossler, DVM, of the Antimicrobial Resistance Program at USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS);
- Alabama cattleman Eric Smith;
- M. Gatz Riddell, DVM, American Association of Bovine Practitioners; and
- Stephen Donaldson, Alabama Farmers Cooperative.

Kevin Ochsner of Adayana Agribusiness Group, will moderate the workshop. Breakout discussion sessions will allow producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to identify and discuss the management challenges ahead. Cooperating partners for the Hanceville meeting include the Auburn University College of Agriculture, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Alabama Extension Service, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, and the Alabama Farmers Cooperative.

To gauge awareness of the changes being put in place by FDA, and to learn more about the potential implications of these changes, Farm Foundation is asking stakeholders to complete a brief survey. The survey is open to all livestock producers, feed suppliers and veterinarians, whether or not you attend the workshop. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey. Survey results will only be gathered and reported in the aggregate. Survey results will be shared with workshop participants.

Comments gathered at this workshop will be the basis of a report assessing the economic and physical challenges facing producers as they implement the GFIs and revised VFD. Informational and educational needs will also be evaluated, as well as the role of veterinarians in monitoring and managing antimicrobial drug use. The report will be presented at a national summit to be convened by Farm Foundation in late fall 2015. This will be an opportunity for farmers, ranchers, feed suppliers, veterinarians, academics and government agency staff to advance the conversation on the industry's adaptation to the changing landscape of antimicrobial drug use.

Many producers and businesses across the entire food and agricultural value chain have already taken action to reduce the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food animal production. FDA's [GFI 209](#) and [GFI 213](#) call on animal drug sponsors of approved medically-important antimicrobials administered through medicated feed or water to remove production uses (i.e., to promote growth or improve feed efficiency) from their product labels, and bring the remaining therapeutic uses of these products--to treat, control, or prevent disease--under the oversight of a veterinarian. Manufacturers of products containing these medically-important antimicrobial drugs have voluntarily agreed to submit changes to their product labels to comply with the GFIs. FDA's revised [VFD](#) addresses the increased veterinary oversight of medicated feeds called for by GFI 209 and 213.

In addition to Farm Foundation's leadership, individual producers and many companies are providing financial support for this educational effort. These include JBS United, Hormel Foods Corporation, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Rose Acre Farms, Elanco Animal Health, J.R. Simplot Company, Steve Irsik and Sons, National Pork Producers Council, the National Pork Board, and North American Meat Institute.

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