



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next week's Mesa workshop focused on stewardship of antimicrobial drug use in food animals

OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 2, 2015: There is still time to register for the workshop on antimicrobial drug use in food animals planned for Wednesday, Sept. 9, in Mesa, AZ.

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 for some drugs veterinary oversight will be needed in the form of a veterinarian's prescription, direct administration by a veterinarian, or a veterinary consultation on disease management protocols.

This free workshop, which will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., is targeted to all pork, cattle, poultry and sheep producers, as well as veterinarians and feed suppliers in Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California, Southern Utah, Southern Colorado and Southern Nevada. The workshop is also an opportunity for state and federal agencies, colleges of veterinary medicine and university extension personnel to gain insights into the changes and tools needed to meet the requirements.

The workshop will be in Cooley Ballroom B of the Student Union on the Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic Campus, 7001 E. Williams Field Road, Mesa, AZ. Partnering with Farm Foundation for this workshop are the University of Arizona (UA) College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the UA Veterinary Medical Education Program and the ASU Morrison School of Agribusiness. Here is a [map of the campus](#); parking is in Lot 10.

There is no charge to participate. Advanced registration is requested but not required. Registration can be [completed online](#) or by going to the [Farm Foundation website](#).

Representatives from FDA and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will be at the workshop to answer questions about the new policies. Participants will also hear perspectives from Paul Rovey of Rovey Dairy; Job Luque of Five Rivers Feeding; Jim Lytle, DVM of Wickenburg, AZ; and Billy Thompson of Maid Rite Feeds. Breakout sessions will allow producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to discuss the management challenges ahead.

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.

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, Irsik and Doll, Hardin Farms, C-ARC Enterprises, National Pork Producers Council, the National Pork Board, North American Meat Institute and the National Turkey Federation.

Farm Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has been serving agriculture, the food system and rural communities since 1933. Farm Foundation is a non-advocacy organization--we do not lobby or advocate positions. Our action comes in bringing industry leaders together to address evolving issues that will shape the future of the industry. Antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals is just such an issue. Farm Foundation has for 82 years been committed to objectivity, fostering the constructive debate that is essential to sound public policy development in a democracy.

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