



PRESS RELEASE
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Twin Falls workshop examines stewardship of antimicrobial drug use in livestock

OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 16, 2015: Stewardship of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food animals is the subject of workshop targeted to all livestock producers, feed suppliers and veterinarians in the Northern Intermountain and Pacific Northwest regions. The workshop will be Oct. 15, 2015 at the College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID.

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

This free workshop is targeted to all pork, cattle, poultry and sheep producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers in Idaho, eastern Oregon, western Wyoming, western Montana, Washington, northern Utah and northern Nevada. While not required, advance registration is requested and can be [completed online here](#). This is one of 12 regional workshops Farm Foundation is hosting across the nation. A complete list of workshop locations is available on the [Farm Foundation website](#).

The Oct. 15 workshop will include presentations by a regional livestock producer, veterinarian and feed supplier. Officials from FDA and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be at the workshop to discuss the policies and answer questions. A major part of the agenda is designated for producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to identify and discuss the management challenges ahead. The workshop is also an opportunity for the staff of state and federal agencies, colleges of veterinary medicine and Cooperative Extension to gain insights into the changes needed to meet the requirements.

To gauge awareness of the changes being put in place by FDA on the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food animals, Farm Foundation, NFP is asking stakeholders to complete a brief survey. The survey is also intended to learn more about the potential implications of these changes. The survey is open to all livestock producers, feed suppliers and veterinarians, whether or not you attend a 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 the 12 workshops will be compiled in a report assessing the economic and physical challenges facing producers as they implement the new provisions in 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.

Farm Foundation will convene a national summit in late fall 2015 for farmers, ranchers, feed suppliers, veterinarians, academics and government agency staff to address the issues identified in the regional workshops. This will also be an opportunity 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 by the end of December 2016. 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 also revised the [Veterinary Feed Directive \(VFD\)](#) to facilitate the increased veterinary oversight of medicated feeds called for by GFI 209 and 213

Successful adaptation to the policy changes is critical to public and animal health, ensuring consumer confidence in food safety and the future viability of animal agriculture in the United States. “The success of achieving this goal—for both public health and the economic health of animal agriculture—hinges on producers having access to the information they need to adjust production practices, feed retailers and distributors understanding their changing responsibilities, and the capacity of veterinarians to provide the additional oversight needed,” says Farm Foundation President Neil Conklin. “As an organization respected for its objectivity, Farm Foundation is well positioned to quickly respond to this informational need and draw relevant and diverse stakeholder groups to the table for constructive discussions on this important topic.”

A 501(c)3 nonprofit, Farm Foundation works as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. Since its founding in 1933, Farm Foundation has been a non-advocacy organization—it does not lobby or advocate positions. The Foundation's action comes in bringing industry leaders together to examine evolving issues that will shape the future of the industry. Antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals is just such an issue.

About half of the Foundation's funding is from an endowment set up by its founders. The remainder is contributions from individuals, other foundations and companies who support the Foundation's work. For this project, support was received from JBS United, Hormel Foods Corporation, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Rose Acre Farms, Elanco Animal Health, J.R. Simplot Company, Irsik Farms, C-ARC Enterprises, Hardin Farms, National Pork Producers Council, the National Pork Board, the North American Meat Institute, the National Turkey Federation and BARN Media.

Visit our website, www.farmfoundation.org, to learn more about the Foundation, and this project. The staff of Adayana Agribusiness Group will facilitate the workshops.

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