PRESS RELEASE
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Free workshop Saturday at National Western Stock Show examines stewardship of antimicrobial drug use in livestock

Jan. 13, 2016: Stewardship of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food animals is the subject of a free workshop to be offered Saturday, Jan. 16, at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, CO.

The workshop is targeted to youth raising and showing cattle, livestock producers, veterinarians, feed suppliers and educators. The workshop will be 9 a.m. to noon at the Beef Palace Arena on the NWSS grounds.

For those not able to participate in person, this workshop will be webcast live by BARN Media. Access the webcast at: http://livestream.com/BarnMedia/events/4637175. The webcast will also be archived for later viewing.

A collaboration of Farm Foundation, NFP and the Livestock Division of the NWSS, the workshop will focus on 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.

Officials from FDA and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will participate in the workshop to discuss specific elements of the policies. An update will also be provided on USDA’s Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan. A major portion of the workshop is designated for participants to identify and give feedback to federal officials on the management challenges ahead. Kevin Ochsner of the Adayana Agribusiness Group will lead the workshop.

Saturday's workshop is one of a series Farm Foundation has conducted across the country. The workshops were an opportunity for provide producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to gain information on the new policies, and for FDA and APHIS to gain feedback on the management challenges involved in implementing the policies. NWSS hosted a Sept. 28 workshop, and invited Farm Foundation to present another workshop as part of the 2016 Stock Show.

The national summit, Antibiotic Stewardship: Policies, Education and Economics, will be Jan. 20-21, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. This summit is 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. The event is a collaboration of Farm Foundation, the Association of
Public and Land-grant Universities, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
and USDA’s Economic Research Service.

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Farm Foundation, NFP, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, 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 address evolving issues that will shape the future of the industry. Antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals is just such an issue.