What does the rule say?
As of Jan. 1, 2017:

- You will no longer be allowed to go into the feed store and purchase most medicated feeds.
- This rule requires a prescription from a veterinarian to give your animals feed with an antibiotic in it.
- To get this prescription the veterinarian has to have a valid client-patient relationship with you and your herd.
- In the case of feed with antibiotics added to it, the veterinarians will only be allowed to write prescriptions for animals that are currently sick, not for animals that will get sick.
- There are only a limited number of exceptions to this rule and your veterinarian can advise you if you have questions.
- Off label use of antibiotics in feed will no longer be allowed, not even with a prescription. (Off label use means using an antibiotic in any way that varies from what is on the label, such as in a different species or amount that is indicated on the drug container.)
- The rule will start being enforced on January 1, 2017.

Will I need a prescription for my injectable antibiotics?
- No, if you could buy the injectable antibiotic over the counter before it will still be available, though this may change in the future.
- If you needed a prescription for an injectable treatment before you will still need a prescription for that same treatment.

What should I do to prepare for January 2017?
- Start the discussion with your veterinarian about your herd and if the rule will impact your farm.
- If you do not have a regular veterinarian, it is time to start calling around and see who is available in your area.

To learn more about the VFD Rule, ask your veterinarian or visit:
http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm