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**What the FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule  
means for Maine's Dairy Producers**

***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?***

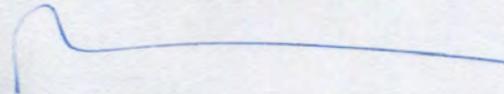
- No, if you could buy the injectable antibiotic over the counter before it will still be available, though this may change in the future.
- If you needed a prescription for an injectable treatment before you will still need a prescription for that same treatment.

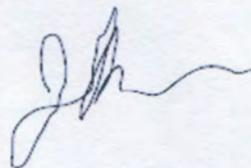
***What should I do to prepare for January 2017?***

- 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>

  
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