VEAL GUIDELINES

Antibiotic use in the veal industry has been tricky since most drug withhold times were never determined in pre-ruminating calves. Recently, pharmaceutical companies have begun to get veal claims on their labels which is a good step for veterinary medicine in ensuring prudent use and adhering to proper withhold times for food safety. That being said, the main stay of disease control in all animal industries, including veal, need to be heavily focused on disease prevention and health management as opposed to its treatment.

A recent literature review by Dr. David Renaud has identified the major areas to be focused on in disease prevention in the Canadian veal industry. These areas include management of the calves on the dairy farms before shipping (calving, colostrum, nutrition, housing, and navel antisepsis), transportation (length and season), and health management protocols on arrival (assessment, vaccinations, vitamins, minerals, probiotics and on arrival antibiotics). A veal operation following these recommended guidelines would invariably have little need for excessive antibiotic treatment of the animals. When antibiotic treatment does become necessary however, the following products are approved for use in veal calves, and can be used at their label doses for their specific label diseases, using labeled meat withhold times.

Penicillins: Penpro, Procillin, Depocillin, Duplocillin, Hi-Pencin 300, Polyflex

Cephalosporins: Excenel and Ceftiocyl

Tetracyclines: Biomycin 200, Liquamycin LA, Oxymycin LA, Oxymycin LP, Noromycin

Potentiated Sulfas: Trimidox, Trivetrin, Borgal

Macrolides: Tylan 200, Micotil, Hymatil, Draxxin, Zactran

Orals: Aureomycin, Chloro 50 - 100, Terramycin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline powder

Off label drug use is strongly discouraged when treating veal calves. If off label use is deemed necessary, please consult CgFARAD to work out withhold times for veal.