



Improper Storage & Drug Use = Residues

Our last newsletter indicated that illegal drug residues are being found by the FDA in cull dairy cows. Following are some questions that quality dairy producers can ask themselves to improve their odds of avoiding illegal residues levels:

Have you ever . .

- *Stored product in an old refrigerator out in the shed?*
- *Bought a product at the store, threw the bag in the truck, made a few stops and then put the product in refrigerator when you got home?*
- *Vaccinated cattle into the middle of the day when vaccine was exposed to sunlight and warm temperatures?*
- *Bought too much product, only used half a bottle and saved the left over for the next time you vaccinate?*
- *Used a product after the expiration date?*

All or any of these practices could result in changing the effectiveness of the product.

The best source of information on use of animal drugs is your veterinarian. He or she can interpret the bottle labels and packing insert and help you avoid illegal drug residues.

FSIS has two websites where they publish producer names, dairy names and addresses of antibiotic residue violators. Presently hundreds of producers are on the “Residue Violators List” – a list of producers who have sold meat with illegal residues in the past year. FSIS also maintains a “Same Source Supplier – Residue Violators List” to assist packing plant owners to identify repeat violators. This listing is now “searchable” to make it easy to identify and locate produces, packers, and violations. Check it out at www.fsis.uda.gov/science/chemistry.index.asp

The most common drugs found at an illegal level are:

Drug	Probable Cause
- Banamine (Flu-Nix TM , Flunixin meglumine and Flumeglumine)	<i>This drug can only be used intravenously</i>
- Ceftiofur (Spectramast TM , Excede [®] , Naxcel [®] , and Excenel [®])	<i>Each variation of Ceftiofur has different withhold times. Naxcel[®] no longer has a zero withhold time</i>
- Penicillin	<i>Improper administration</i>
- Gentamicin	<i>Withdrawal time normally at least 2 years</i>

VPP producers are marketing beef into a premium market – one you want to protect. Read and follow the rules. Listen to your herd veterinarian.

Sincerely,

and your friends at Caviness Beef Packers, Ltd.