

Many Over the Counter Livestock Antibiotics to Require Prescription Starting in June

Posted on [March 13, 2023](#) by [tiffany.dowell](#)

In January, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) released specific details on a change to how certain antibiotics for animal use may be purchased. As of June 11, 2023, a number of veterinary antibiotics considered “medically important antimicrobials” previously sold over the counter will require a veterinary prescription in order to purchase. Here are answers to some common questions surrounding this new rule.



Photo via Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife Marketing and Communications

What is the new rule? The Food and Drug Administration’s CVM GIF #263 makes changes to the availability of certain over the counter antibiotics for livestock and

companion animals. Specifically, the rule applies to “medically important antimicrobials.” These are drugs essential to human medicine that are also used to treat animals. Drugs falling within this definition will no longer be available for over-the-counter purchase. Instead, a prescription from a licensed veterinarian will be required. In order to obtain a prescription from a veterinarian, producers will need to establish a “veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR).” To see the statutory definition of a VCPR in each state, [click here](#). In Texas, this requires the veterinarian to: (1) assume responsibility for medical judgments regarding the health of an animal and a client, who is the owner of the animals, who agrees to follow the veterinarian’s instructions; (2) possess sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the animal’s medical condition; and (3) is readily available to provide, or has provided, follow-up medical care in the event of an adverse reaction to or failure of therapy provided by the veterinarian.

Which medications are affected? There are a number of affected medications including: Penicillins, Tetracyclines, Sulfa antibiotics, Erythromycin, Tylosin, Lincomycin, Spectinomycin, Gentamicin. For a complete list of affected products and manufacturer information, [click here](#).

Which medications are not impacted? There are certain products to which the new rule does not apply including: Vaccines, dewormers, pre- and pro-biotics, and nutrition supplements.

When does this new rule go into effect? The target date announced by the FDA is June 11, 2023. This is the date by which FDA plans to introduce the new prescription-required labels on these products.

How will I obtain these medications after June 11? After June 11, a producer will need to have a prescription for these drugs. Producers will also have to purchase these drugs either from a veterinarian or a distributor allowed to sell prescription drugs.

Will this increase the price of the impacted medications? That remains to be seen. However, for producers without a VCPR, there will likely be additional costs in establishing that relationship.

How is this different than the Veterinary Feed Directive? The Veterinary Feed Directive, passed in 2017, applied to medically important antibiotics administered in animal feed and water. This new rule applies to other forms of medically important antibiotics, such as injectable forms, topicals, and boluses, for example.

What should a producer do at this point? The first step for many producers should be to conduct an inventory of what drugs they are currently using and to

determine which of those will be affected by the new rule. Next, producers should take the time to create a VCPR. Going forward, this relationship will be critical to obtain the impacted medications through a prescription. Another important consideration, particularly for producers in more remote areas, is to determine where these products will be able to be purchased after June 11. One thing experts advise producers not to do is stockpile these medications now because these medications have expiration dates and can have stringent handling and storage requirements.

Where can we find additional information? The FDA has a Frequently Asked Questions page available [here](#).

State of Agriculture Meeting Information

The Stephenville Chamber of Commerce invites you to join the annual **State of Agriculture** Luncheon!

The luncheon will take place at the City Hall at City Limits on **Tuesday, March 28th, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.**

Presentations will include:

- State Legislative Update: *Sid Miller, Texas Agriculture Commissioner*
- Current Trends in US Agriculture: *Dr. Barry Lambert, Tarleton College of Agriculture & Natural Resources*
- Erath County Ag Stats: *Gerrit Schouten, Lone Star Ag Credit*
- 4-H Youth Pasture to Packer Program Impact
- Erath County Junior Livestock Show Facilities Update
- Cowboy Capital of the World Pro Rodeo Facilities Update

For more information a registration information copy and paste the following link into browser:

[State of Agriculture Luncheon 2023 - Mar 28, 2023 - publiclayoutevents - Stephenville Chamber of Commerce, TX \(stephenvilletexas.org\)](#)

Turkeys

- 1) How do you tell turkey subspecies apart?

Here is a quick run through of unique subspecies characteristics.

Rio Wild Turkey



- Tan-colored tips on tail feathers
- Adult males ~ 20 lbs.
- Adult females ~ 8 to 12 lbs.
- Gobble at everything (just my experience)

Eastern Wild Turkey

- Brown tips on tail feathers (this is the easiest give away for me)
- Adult males ~ 18 to 30 lbs.
- Adult females ~ 8 to 12 lbs.
- Very long beards (longest beards of all subspecies)



Merriam's Wild Turkey

- Whitish tips on tail feathers
- More white on wings
- Adult males ~ 18 to 30 lbs.
- Adult females ~ 8 to 12 lbs.



2) What do turkeys eat?

- Turkeys are opportunistic omnivores. Typically, their diet consists of about 75% plant matter and 25% animal matter. They eat grass and forbs, and they take advantage of seasonal mast resources such as acorns and black berries. As for animal matter, they eat lots of insects such as beetles and grasshoppers but will "gobble" up a small snake or lizard when the opportunity arises.

3) Has anyone else experienced this and want to know why?

Well, the reason is straightforward. Turkeys spend fall and winter in big flocks made up of females (hens) and their young and separately, but sometimes overlapping, bachelor groups of older males (gobblers). During this time, turkeys are commonly concentrated in hardwoods eating mast or in agricultural fields. That's right! They hang out in the spots you're likely to be deer hunting.

Come spring, those flocks break up as juvenile males (jakes) begin to leave the flock and form their own bachelor groups and older males abandon their bachelor lifestyles to find females. They begin to spend more time in open areas, taking advantage of forbs and grasses, as well as the insects they attract. Openings also ensure males are easy to see by females while they strut looking for a mate.



