



May 23, 2023

## **FDA Over-the-Counter Livestock Antibiotic Restrictions Take Effect June 11<sup>th</sup>**

The new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restrictions on over-the-counter (OTC) livestock antibiotics take effect in less than a month. This FDA guidance will restrict all OTC sales of “medically important antimicrobials” which include common livestock drugs like Oxytetracyclines (LA-200 & LA-300), Penicillin, and Sulfa based antimicrobials including sulfa boluses. As a producer, you will be required to have a prescription from a veterinarian to purchase these drugs. Additionally, the ruling requires a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) form on file to allow veterinarians to write a prescription.

Thanks to the effort of many Farm Bureau members during the 2023 legislative session, Arkansas passed new legislation allowing farm stores and local pharmacies to fill prescriptions written by a veterinarian. Under the previously existing Arkansas laws, farm stores would have been required to employ full-time pharmacists to continue selling the newly restricted antibiotics.

Now is an excellent time to reach out to your veterinarian and make sure there is an existing VCPR form on file. To establish a VCPR, your veterinarian must make a visit to your farm and become acquainted with your herd and operation.



*For more information, contact Jake Cartwright at (501) 228-1475, [jake.cartwright@arfb.com](mailto:jake.cartwright@arfb.com).*