

## CDQAP Quality Assurance Update December, 2017 Newsletter

### 2017 – CDQAP A Year in Review...

CDQAP continues to provide timely, relevant education support and value-added third-party environmental certification for California's dairy producers. In 2017, highlights of support the program provided include:

- ✓ Key Emergency Alert Guides during the early spring flooding and summer heat wave mortality management crises.
- ✓ Animal emergency evacuation protocol & care step info. during the Sonoma/Napa fires.
- ✓ Science-based, grass-roots education workshops on water quality compliance for North Coast & SF Bay Area producers.
- ✓ Animal Stockmanship training program development course (FARM program requirement).
- ✓ Annual Environmental Stewardship Short Course & Air Quality Class.
- ✓ New monthly electronic newsletters with links to additional online resources.
- ✓ On-farm Environmental Certification. The certification program currently includes 798 dairy facilities. Certified facilities benefit from a 50% savings in their annual water quality permit fees, a benefit currently conservatively estimated at over \$2 million dollars in total.

## California's New Livestock Medication Laws: Three Things You Need to Know

*Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and Director, CDQAP*

Most producers are generally aware that as of this January 1<sup>st</sup>, a prescription from the herd veterinarian will be required to purchase any "medically important antibiotic", meaning an antibiotic (or its class) that is also used in human medicine. The new state law expands on similar national regulations enacted earlier this year requiring veterinary authorization for medically important [antibiotics in feed](#) and water. While producers universally see the need to preserve antibiotic effectiveness both for their families and their livestock, many farmers are understandably concerned about what the new laws and regulations will mean for their operations. Here's three things California producers need to know about the coming changes...

**Purchase of antibiotics from "feed-stores" is greatly curtailed.** Historically in California there have been some 300 retail locations licensed to dispense over-the-counter livestock medications. Under the State's new medication law, medically important antibiotics will now be available through one of approximately 20 currently licensed Veterinary Food-Animal Drug Retailers or [VFADR](#). A California Board of Pharmacy [website](#) allows producers to search for a local VFADR, or producers can simply click "[Find](#)" to review a list of all licensed retailers in the State.

**Antibiotics will still be available.** If a herd veterinarian maintains an adequate inventory and has competitive prices, some producers may choose to purchase directly from the vet's practice. Alternatively, a producer may request that his herd veterinarian provide a prescription (by phone, fax, email) to one of the VFADRs described above. Since by California law a veterinarian may not charge for providing a prescription, producers may wish to review product prices from different retailers and choose the most competitive price. Typically, the VFADRs can ship product directly to a producer. Some VFADRs also have brick-and-mortar locations where medications can be picked up. Finally, there are several internet veterinary pharmacies which are licensed with the Board of Pharmacy to fill prescriptions within the state.

**Disease control is still permitted.** While "regular pattern" *preventative* use of antibiotics is restricted by law, use of antibiotics to *treat* or *control* disease conditions is still permitted. Producers will want to discuss with their veterinarians what this means for their treatment protocols.

Dairy producers typically already have a herd veterinarian and will be minimally affected by the new laws. More information on the program and efforts to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics for use in livestock can be found at CDFA's Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship [website](#). The site contains a variety of resources including FAQ documents, industry presentations and lists of medications now requiring a prescription. CDQAP will continue to provide updates on the topic and is currently completing a series of short videos focusing on cost-saving opportunities.