

President's Letter
Al Squire
March, 2015

At last the FDA released its long awaited milk drug residue study from 2012. They sampled nearly 2000 herds over the nation in a double blind study which purposely hid the identity of the herd of origin. The good news was that in this study over 99% of the samples were clean of any antibiotic residue. The target group which had previously been identified by a positive beef carcass residue had an incidence rate of 1.1% with 11 positive samples of the 953 samples. The non-targeted group had a residue incidence of .42% with 4 positive samples out of 959. These residues were all from the same drug – Nuflor.

I am thrilled that no commonly used antibiotics or Banamine were detected. I'm proud of the efforts of Dr. Hagevoort and Dr. Wenzel and NMDA's support by Larry Dominguez, Alf Reeb and Secretary Jeff Witte, and I doubt very seriously if any of the offenders in this study were from New Mexico because of the greatly improved track record achieved in cull cow residues subsequent to the training sessions. I'm proud of the fact that FDA was upset that our training in NM and a few other states probably skewed the results because our dairymen had been trained to do a more responsible job of using medications.

I am concerned greatly that 100% of the drug residues found were from drugs that should not have been used in dairy cows. The drugs found in order of incidence were: Nuflor (Florfenical), Draxxin (Tulathromycin), Baytril (Enrofloxacin), Micotil (Tilmicosin), Gentamycin, and Sulfamethazine. They are labeled "NOT FOR USE IN FEMALE DAIRY CATTLE OVER 20 MONTHS OF AGE OR IN VEAL CALVES INTENDED FOR FOOD BECAUSE RESIDUES IN MILK OR VEAL MAY RESULT!"

We must protect not only our milk and beef markets but also the availability of antibiotics for use in our young stock or in beef herds. If we continue to have residues of this nature, we could lose access to these products.

What can you do?

- 1) Work with your veterinarian to put treatment protocols in place.
- 2) Lock up or sequester any of these calf and heifer drugs so that you are certain that they are only used by responsible people in your organization.

- 3) Attend and be sure your managers and hospital people attend Dr. Hagevoort's spring sessions on responsible animal handling and antibiotic residue prevention.

I want to once again thank Beverly, Kaye and Susan for their constant efforts on our behalf, especially over the last two months in Santa Fe.