MIXING MEDICATED FEED ON-FARM

When mixing medicated feed on-farm, measures are needed to prevent bacterial contamination and to control the risk associated with handling medicated products (e.g. weighing the correct quantity of medications, that medications are properly mixed, and that medication withdrawal times are adhered to).

CFC's OFFSP focusses on food safety requirements; as a result, not all federally mandated feed related requirements are addressed in the OFFSP. Additionally, feed mills that sell feeds are considered commercial feed mills and are subject to different regulations.

ON-FARM MEDICATED FEED MIXING CHECKLIST

- ☑ Buy inputs from reputable companies or manufacturers who have a quality control program.
- ☑ Develop a control program for your feed mixing operation. Record your control program in the SOP, or similar.
- ☑ Keep a feed mixing record.
  - » This includes the types of feed manufactured, the sequential order of feed manufactured, the medications used and their rates of inclusion.
  - » Record this on the On-Farm Feed Mixing Record, or similar
- ☑ Sequence, flush or physically clean the mixing equipment after manufacturing medicated feed to prevent cross contamination.
- ☑ Record the storage location (e.g. feed bin) where the feed is stored.
- ☑ Take a sample of the ingredients or the final feed.
  - » The sample is to be kept for 2 weeks after the flock has been marketed.
- ☑ If a deviation occurs during on-farm feed mixing (e.g. the wrong medication or quantity of medication), then actions need to be taken to reduce the potential risks. Examples of these actions could include:
  - » Removing feed (flushing or cleaning) from the feeding system.
  - » Contacting the catching crew and/or processor to reschedule their activities.
  - » Discussing the deviation with farm workers regarding the source of problem and taking appropriate corrective measures to prevent a re-occurrence.

WHEN MIXING MEDICATIONS WITH A WITHDRAWAL PERIOD

Additional controls are needed when mixing medications that require a withdrawal period.

- ☑ Perform scale calibration tests at a minimum of every year.
- ☑ Perform mixer efficiency tests at a minimum of every 3 years.
- ☑ Keep a record of scale calibrations, laboratory reports for mixer efficiency tests, and any corrective actions taken.

DO YOU ADD AN INGREDIENT (E.G. WHEAT) TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR COMMERCIALLY PURCHASED FEED?

- ☑ To meet the requirements of the CFC OFFSP, a sample of the added ingredient or the final feed need to be taken and kept for 2 weeks after the flock has been processed.
- ☑ Note: Adding an ingredient to a medicated commercial feed is considered on-farm feed mixing under the Feeds Act and Regulations; as such, be aware that additional requirements are needed to be compliant with the Feeds Regulations.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SEQUENCING GUIDELINES FOR MIXING MEDICATED FEED?

- The CFIA has developed sequencing guidelines to permit the production of medicated and non-medicated feeds in cross-utilized equipment, where feeds containing medications are followed only by feeds intended to contain those same medications, or by feeds where residual levels of the carryover medications present an acceptable risk.
- Check out **CFIA's sequencing guidelines** for a listing of each approved drug, and the types of feed (by species and class of animals) that can be safely sequenced.

HOW DO I PERFORM A SCALE CALIBRATION TEST?

- Scales and metering devices are to be calibrated and maintained properly to avoid errors in measurement of medications and other ingredients.
- Calibration tests are performed by using test weights to check the accuracy of the scale. Examples of specific **test procedures for scales and metering devices** have been provided by the CFIA.
- Scales and metering devices are to be deemed accurate if they meet the criteria laid out by the CFIA:
  - » Scales which have been in operation should have a maintenance tolerance of 0.2%.
  - » Metering devices will be deemed to be accurate if the variation from the true weight is within 5% of the target output or the deviation does not exceed the amount delivered by one increment change in the meter setting.
  - » Further information on acceptability criteria is available **from the CFIA**.

HOW DO I PERFORM A MIXER EFFICIENCY TEST?

- Mixer efficiency tests are performed to determine whether the feed is mixed uniformly.
- Mixer efficiency tests are performed by using a test substance (e.g. sodium, chloride, zinc, etc.) and taking multiple samples of finished product. These samples are then tested by a laboratory to determine the coefficient of variation (CV) for the mixer. Examples of specific **mixer efficiency tests** have been provided by the CFIA.
- Mixers are considered to be producing homogeneous feeds when the coefficient of variation (CV) for the test batch is no greater than 15% for complete feeds.

Check out the OFFSP manual and **CFIA's National Feed Inspection Program** webpage for more information related to on-farm feed mixing.