

Drug import rules the next step in antimicrobial campaign

Health Canada is limiting the drugs that farmers can legally import to treat sick livestock with a number of exceptions

BY ALEX BINKLEY
Ontario Farmer

Health Canada has taken several long-promised steps toward implementing its Pan-Canadian Framework to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by limiting the use of human crucial medicines in agriculture production.

Farmers will no longer be able to import antimicrobial drugs to treat sick livestock although they will still be able to bring in limited quantities of medicines the department has determined do not pose a risk to human health or food safety.

At the same time, it will allow manufacturers to import and sell low-risk veterinary health products, such as vitamin and mineral supplements, for companion and food-producing animals.

These treatments can keep

animals healthy and may reduce the need for antimicrobials, it said.

The announcement was made in the middle of the 2017 World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

Duane Landals, past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, said then Health Canada announcements are “specific regulatory changes we have expected.”

“In previous statements we have endorsed them along with the policy change to make all medically important antimicrobials prescription only and the voluntary removal of all growth promotion claims,” from veterinary medicines.

He recently told the Commons health committee that the CVMA has been urging the federal government for 20 years to make “regulatory and

...it will allow manufacturers to import and sell low-risk veterinary health products, such as vitamin and mineral supplements...

policy changes to enhance the responsible use of antimicrobial drugs.”

The CVMA has worked with the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council and Antimicrobial Stewardship Canada that have developed AMR use strategies, he said.

Jean Szkotnicki, head of the Canadian Animal Health Institute, said the policy changes have been expected for months.

Still to come from Health Canada in the roll-out of the framework are specific commitments and measurable outcomes.

The department is discuss-

ing its plans with vets and livestock groups.

The framework was first announced almost two years ago to guide collective action in tackling AMR in Canada under the pillars of surveillance, stewardship, infection prevention and control, and research and innovation.

It’s part of an international campaign to reduce the use of human crucial medicines in treating livestock and companion animals to try to slow the spread of AMR.

Without action, the World Health Organization fears 10 million people could die annually by 2050 from diseases resistant to existing medicines surpassing the deaths from cancer.

Health Canada says antimicrobials “are an essential tool against infections in both humans and animals, but they are losing their effectiveness more quickly than we are identifying and developing new drugs or other treatments.”


The CVMA is updating its guidelines for antimicrobial use to assist producers in meeting federal expectations. It also wants to encourage consistent veterinary practices across the country.

Landis noted that both the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Health Organization “have stressed the importance of raising awareness of the health risks posed by antibiotic resistance and to promote good practice in this area of concern, to limit the emergence and spread of resistant bacteria throughout the world.”

It also endorses One Health as “an approach to medicine that recognizes that the health of humans, animals and the environment are inextricably linked.”

“Veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians/technologists play a key role in improving the health and welfare of the animals they treat in a manner that supports One Health.”

We don't just sell systems... WE SERVICE THEM TOO!



Drying Technology For A New Generation of Agriculture
Save Fuel • Improve Grain Quality

- Innovative Unloading Systems for gentle grain handling
- Patented MOISTURE EQUALIZER® System for improved grain quality
- Easy-to-use QUANTUM® Dryer Controller for total dryer management


MEYER ENERGY MIZER™
Tower Dryers
handles up to 2400 tph

SUPERB ENERGY MIZER™ SQ Series
Castellous Floor Grain Dryers
handles up to 1900 tph

For More Information Call Mark Today!
6687 Longwoods Road 8933 Walker Road
Melbourne, ON N0L 1T0 Aylmer, ON N5H 2R1
Tel: 519-289-5256 Tel: 519-773-2740
Toll Free 1-877-605-7488
www.mfasales.com


We don't just sell systems... WE SERVICE THEM TOO!

The Right Choice for Every Job.




Our tires are one of a kind, designed and manufactured to offer the best solution for your specific needs. BKT: every day by your side.

ATV
ATV & GO KART TIRES
W 207



GROWING TOGETHER



in f t b
bkt-tires.com

BKT Tires (CANADA) Inc. - 55 York Street, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1R7, Canada - Tel: AG/IND (+1) 905 641 5636 or 514-792-9220