Medicated feed is feed with a specific drug added to it. Medicated feed is fed to animals to prevent illness or treat an animal when it is sick. Medicated feeds are just one of the good animal care and well-being practices farmers and animal owners use to keep their animals healthy.

**What is a medicated feed and why is it used?**
Medicated feed is feed with a specific drug added to it. Medicated feed is fed to animals to prevent illness or treat an animal when it is sick. Medicated feeds are just one of the good animal care and well-being practices farmers and animal owners use to keep their animals healthy.

**Is all feed medicated?**
No, when you purchase feed, you have the option to buy feed without medications mixed into it.

**Who is impacted by these changes?**
Livestock owners, including youth with animal projects, who have decided to feed their animals medicated feeds.

To ensure a safe food supply, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the use of animal medications. Some medications have been approved for use without a veterinarian's permission, while others require permission. Recently, the FDA changed how some antibiotic medications, which are important to human medicine, are used for animal feed. After January 1, 2017, these medications will require a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) order to be used in a medicated feed.

**For more information on the Veterinary Feed Directive, visit:**

http://www.fda.gov/

- Search for "VFD" in the search field

Questions and additional information requests can be emailed to FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine at askCVM@fda.hhs.gov

The Exhibitor's Guide to the Veterinary Feed Directive
A VFD order is similar to a prescription you would get from your human doctor, however a veterinarian will be giving you a VFD order for a medicated feed.

How does a VFD order work?
To get a VFD order, you must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian. A VCPR is a working relationship between a veterinarian and a person who raises livestock (client). The veterinarian’s primary role is to help and advise the client in determining which medications are appropriate for their animals (the patients).

How do you get a VFD order?
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How do you know if you need a VFD order?
You can buy VFD feeds at any mill, retailer or other establishment listed as a distributor or manufacturer with the FDA. The list can be found at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). If you are purchasing feed that requires a VFD order, you will need to present the VFD order before purchase.

Where can I buy feed with my VFD order?
No, not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected; and some drugs used in water will now require a prescription from a veterinarian.

What are examples of medications that will require a VFD order?
Examples of feed-grade medications moving to VFD drug status are chlortetracycline, tylosin and penicillin. The detailed list can be found at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

How do feed stores check for VFD orders?
As seen in the example, feed labels of VFD drugs have the following statement: “Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.”

What will I need to keep records of?
Records will need to be kept by the livestock owner, veterinarian and feed sales company for two years. The original VFD order will be kept by the veterinarian. The livestock owner and feed mill must also keep copies on file.

What does VFD stand for?
Veterinary Feed Directive

What is a VFD drug and why did the FDA change their process?
A VFD drug is an antibiotic used for both human and animal medicine. It’s important these drugs are used correctly. The FDA’s job is to ensure these drugs are used properly which is why they are requiring a VFD order for some medicated feed beginning January 1, 2017.

Are all antibiotics affected?
No, not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected; and some drugs used in water will now require a prescription from a veterinarian.

How does a VFD order work?
A VFD order is similar to a prescription you would get from your human doctor, however a veterinarian will be giving you a VFD order for a medicated feed.

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Many over-the-counter feed-grade antibiotics will be moved to VFD status by January 1, 2017.