

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

[www.farad.org](http://www.farad.org)

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and is staffed by highly-trained veterinary pharmacologists, toxicologists and food animal specialists. FARAD provides open access to comprehensive up-to-date information and data resources for food animal drugs and science-based estimates of safe withdrawal intervals for food-producing animal species that have been treated with or exposed to drugs or other chemicals.

[agriculture.ks.gov/  
drugresidueavoidance](http://agriculture.ks.gov/drugresidueavoidance)

Find more information on the Kansas Drug Residue Avoidance program, which promotes the prevention of illegal drug residues in food producing animals through educational outreach and training, improved communication, and effective management practices. Resources include species-specific presentations and videos.

[vfdinfo.org](http://vfdinfo.org)

Find the latest information regarding Veterinary Feed Directives (VFDs) for producers, feed mill employees, veterinarians, or distributors. Resources include sample VFD forms and sector-specific informational modules, which answer many common questions about VFDs.

## **Kansas Department of Agriculture**

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

*Serving the state's largest industry.*

## **Drug Residue Avoidance** *Beef*



## INTRODUCTION

The beef industry is committed to producing a safe, wholesome and affordable beef product of the highest quality.

It is through the dedication and commitment of all who participate in the beef supply chain to ensure animals are healthy and free from disease.

Continuous evaluation of quality management practices and disease prevention protocols are tools producers regularly use to keep animals healthy and comfortable.

## DRUG RESIDUE

Drug residue refers to the presence of veterinary pharmaceutical products such as antibiotics, antimicrobials, and deworming products in meat or milk. Residues found in beef above the tolerable levels most often occur due to the following:

- uninformed drug use by small segments of the animal industry,
- failure to adhere to proper withdrawal regulations,
- extra-label use of drugs, and
- lack of animal identification or traceability.

There are regulations in place to ensure that no residues beyond the government prescribed tolerance levels enter the food supply chain.



## ILLEGAL DRUG RESIDUE

An “illegal drug residue” is any drug found above the allowable range in an animal sent to slaughter.

## IMPORTANCE OF DRUG RESIDUE

Contaminated meat is a major concern for human health. Any adulterated product may result in drug residue allergies or other adverse effects in humans.

Producers found guilty for illegal drug residue may face the following:

- financial penalties,
- criminal penalties,
- refusal at sale barns and packing facilities, or
- negative public perception.



## RESIDUE MONITORING

Residues in meat products are monitored by the Food Safety Inspection Service through the National Residue Program (NRP). The NRP helps prevent the entry of meat from animals containing violative residues of pesticides, drugs or potentially hazardous chemicals into the food chain through monitoring and enforcement. Random samples are tested to monitor the national residue incidence.

## PREVENTION PRACTICES

### Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship

It is important for a producer to have an ongoing relationship with a licensed veterinarian. This helps to ensure the veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and need for medical treatment.

### Keep Good Records

Proper record keeping is a good business practice. Thorough records will inspire consumer confidence and demonstrate control over potential residue risk factors. Should your operation get cited for a residue violation and you believe it is a case of mistaken identity, good records are your best evidence that the animal in question does not belong to you.

### Avoid Extra-Label Drug Use (ELDU)

ELDU is the use of an animal drug in a manner different from label instructions regarding the disease being treated, route of administration of the drug, dosage of the drug, or recommended treatment regimen. It is important to follow all label directions and withdrawal dates. All extra label drug usage must be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

### Injection Technique

Administer shots in a clean area on the neck. Always read label directions. Take into account route of administration, size of animal, location of injection, volume of injection and thickness of fluid when selecting a needle size. Use disposable syringes, and do not use bent needles.