

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

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

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

**Division of Animal Health
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 564-6601
agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth**

This project was funded by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and created in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Beef Cattle Institute, K-State Research and Extension, and Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Serving the state's largest industry.

Drug Residue Avoidance *Poultry*



INTRODUCTION

The poultry industry is a dynamic and highly specialized industry. This large commercial industry is heavily influenced by the slightest of changes in economic factors such as feed, availability and cost. Each year, billions of birds, including chickens, turkeys, and other poultry, are raised in both commercial and backyard settings for meat and/or eggs.

Antibiotics are used in poultry as a means to prevent, control, or treat disease.

Due to public concerns over the widespread use of antibiotics, some producers have started eliminating the use of antibiotics in order to produce and market “antibiotic free” poultry.

DRUG RESIDUE

Drug residue refers to the presence of veterinary pharmaceutical products such as antimicrobials and deworming products in meat or animal products.

These substances enter into an animal’s body by the following routes: feed, water, injections, external treatments, or by accident. The residue from these substances may remain in the tissue up to several months.

The increased demand for meat production has led to intensive poultry production and the potential for risk of food contamination. Several antibiotics have been employed for animal therapy.

The risk of violative drug residues can be minimized if treatment protocols are carefully followed and approved drugs are used for the class of animal being treated.

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 and eggs can be 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.

BACKYARD POULTRY DILEMMA

The backyard poultry industry is faced with the challenge that there are very few drug products on the market for egg-laying hens in non-commercial settings. Most of the FDA approved medications for laying hens are designed to meet the needs of large scale operations. A drug product used beyond what is specifically stated on the approved FDA label is ‘extra-label.’

A commonly used medication for treating chickens are “dewormers.” There are very few dewormers labeled for all classes of chickens and are often in the form of medicated feeds which increase the difficulty for use in small flocks. It becomes challenging to ensure the dose of the product is accurate and that they actually consumed the product.

PREVENTION PRACTICE TIPS

Disinfect the coop

First clean all surfaces with an effective detergent. Many disinfectants require at least 30 minutes to destroy infectious organisms and should be completely dry before use.

Quarantine if necessary

An unhealthy chicken should be immediately quarantined and accurately diagnosed in order to prevent the further spread of disease.

Vaccinate

Vaccinate birds if they are transported on/off the premises regularly and for disease therapy. Talk to a veterinarian to find out what you should vaccinate your birds for in your area.

Keep birds clean

Minimize or eliminate the entry of new chickens or other poultry into your flock, and limit animal contact with visitors.

Be aware of the top chicken diseases

In general, sick chickens are less active, have a retracted neck close to its body, and an unkempt appearance. However, not all diseases have the same appearance. It is important to be aware of common diseases and their corresponding symptoms.