

# TETRACYCLINE TESTING

Details on a new residue screening program



Starting July 1, government regulators will test bulk milk tankers for the tetracycline family of drugs. This is in addition to current beta-lactam testing already being done. Nearly all dairy farms will have their milk tested for tetracyclines.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED A TETRACYCLINE?



## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TETRACYCLINE USE ?

**1**

Establish a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship.

**2**

With your veterinarian, develop a herd health plan for disease prevention and disease treatment protocols including the use of antibiotics.

**3**

Work with your veterinarian and hoof trimmer to develop a treatment protocol, including dose and withdrawal times for meat and milk if using tetracycline powder for digital dermatitis treatment.

**4**

Use over-the-counter drugs according to the manufacturers' directions, including the specific disease condition being treated, amount, route of administration, length of treatment, and meat and milk withdrawal times. Any deviation from the label directions requires a veterinarian's prescription.



**STOP**

## WHAT HAPPENS IF MILK IS POSITIVE FOR A TETRACYCLINE RESIDUE?

If a bulk milk tanker is found to have a tetracycline residue, a traceback to confirm the dairy farm of origin will occur – just as with beta-lactam residue testing. The offending farm will be responsible for the value of the dumped milk and may temporarily lose its milk license.

*It is the responsibility of every dairy farmer to ensure that antibiotic residues do not end up in milk offered for sale. Our customers trust the safety of milk because of your commitment to produce a safe and nutritious product. Contact your milk cooperative or processor if you are concerned about a residue in your milk. When in doubt, keep it out!*