

ON-FARM FEED INSPECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency verifies livestock feeds manufactured and sold in Canada or imported are safe, effective and are labelled appropriately. Effective feeds contribute to the production and maintenance of healthy livestock. This paper lists some of the requirements for on-farm feed producers to follow in order to be compliant with CFIA's regulations.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

The Feeds Act and Regulations regulate the manufacture, import and sale of feed. They ensure that feed is safe, effective and labelled correctly. Revisions to the Feed Regulations come into force on July 12, 2007 and coincide with changes to the Health of Animals Regulations as they relate to Specified Risk Material (SRM). SRM are tissues that, in BSE infected cattle, contain the agent that may transmit the disease.

The Mammalian to Ruminant Feeding Ban proclaimed under the Health of Animals Act in August, 1997 prohibits the feeding of prohibited material to ruminants. Prohibited material means anything that is, or contains any, protein that originated from a mammal, other than a porcine or equine. It does not include milk, blood, gelatin, rendered animal fat or their products. The focus of these regulations includes labelling, record keeping and following written procedures to prevent cross contamination. The Enhanced Feed Ban comes into effect on July 12, 2007, removing SRM from rendered ruminant material.

CFIA inspectors confirm that feeds a) contain only approved ingredients and are labelled as prescribed, b) contain only approved medications at the correct levels, c) do not contain harmful levels of biological or chemical contaminants and d) feeds for ruminants do not contain prohibited material.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The proposed medicated feed regulations are expected to include mixer performance testing, scale and metering device performance testing and the provision for licensing of all manufacturers of medicated feed. These regulations will be under the Health of Animals Act. The Gazette 1 version of these regulations are expected later this year. Gazette 1 is the stage

where comments are requested from the public for a period of 75 days, and it will be available on the CFIA web site.

MEDICATION LEVELS

The Medicating Ingredient Brochures (MIBs) list the approved levels for each medication. There is one MIB for each medication approved for feed and CFIA issues these based on Health Canada's advice. The Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures (CMIB) is the publication which contains all of the MIBs.

A veterinary prescription is required for medications used at levels or for species not approved in the MIBs, and for liquid feed. Veterinary prescription feeds must meet the requirements of Feed Regulation 5 (2) (g) to be exempt from registration.

Correct medication levels are important as over-medicated feeds may pose a threat to animal health or result in residues in food products. Under-medicated feeds may be ineffective or contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. In Ontario, CFIA follows up on 30 to 40 cases of feed-related medication residues in food each year.

CFIA samples feed manufactured on-farm and tests to verify that the medication level meets the MIB or the veterinary prescription. Samples are also tested for medication residue in feeds that are not intended to contain medications and for biological or chemical contaminants.

RECORDS ARE REQUIRED

On-farm feed manufacturers must keep records of mixing formulae and mixing sheets. Depending on the types of feed made, they may also need to keep written equipment cleanout procedures and documentation to show that the procedures were followed. The mixing formula must contain the name of the feed, the name and weight of each ingredient, including medications used in the manufacture of the feed. Mixing sheets must include the same information as the mixing formula, the manufacturing date of the feed, list only approved ingredients and list medications at MIB levels. Records must be kept for both mixing formulae and mixing sheets for a period of at least two years from the last date of manufacture of that feed.

WRITTEN CLEANOUT PROCEDURES

Written cleanout, flushing or sequencing procedures are required for manufacturers using the same equipment for a) medicated feeds containing different medications, b) medicated and non-medicated feeds or c) feeds containing prohibited material and ruminant feeds. A non-medicated feed made immediately after a medicated feed with no cleanout will result in a medication residue in the non-medicated feed. Sequencing is one way to deal with the residue.

MORE INFORMATION ON FEED

Visit the CFIA web site: www.inspection.gc.ca

Click on “Animals”, then “Feeds”

Scroll down the “Livestock Feeds” page for:

- Feeds Act and Regulations
- Health of Animals Act and Regulations
- Canada’s Enhanced Feed Ban
- Approved Feed Ingredients
- Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures (CMIB)
- Trade Memoranda
- Livestock Producers and the Feed Ban
- Forms - Application Form For Feed Registration
- Policy Documents / Industry Notices

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