

## New Tools For the Organic Dairy Farmer!

By Liz Bawden, NODPA News co-editor and NODPA State Rep

The USDA has acted on recommendations from the NOSB this month, and has published a rule allowing nine new tools for organic dairy farmers and their veterinarians. As of December 12, 2007 (not retroactively), these substances are added to the National List: atropine, butorphanol, flunixin, furosemide, magnesium hydroxide, peroxyacetic/peracetic acid, poloxalene, tolazoline, and xylazine. In addition, the NOP acknowledged that epinephrine is a nonsynthetic substance that is not prohibited (thus allowed without appearing on the National List) for FDA approved uses of treating anaphylactic shock in cattle, horses, sheep, and swine.

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- Atropine – Used as an antidote for organophosphate poisoning, also can be an anesthetic. Must have a valid veterinary prescription; meat withdrawal is 56 days; milk discard is 12 days.
- Butorphanol - Narcotic pain killer; used in surgical situations. Must have a valid veterinary prescription; meat withdrawal 42 days; milk discard 8 days.
- Flunixin - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, also known as Banamine, used to treat fever, pain, inflammation, and the effects of endotoxins. NOP requires double the FDA withdrawal times.
- Furosemide - Diuretic. Used for udder edema. NOP requires double the FDA withdrawal times.
- Magnesium hydroxide – Used as an antacid and laxative. Must have a valid veterinary prescription.
- Peroxyacetic/peracetic acid - Used for sanitizing facilities and processing equipment.
- Poloxalene - May only be used in the emergency treatment of bloat.
- Tolazoline - May only be used to reverse the effects of sedation and analgesia caused by Xylazine. Must have a valid veterinary prescription. Meat withdrawal 8 days; milk discard 4 days.
- Xylazine - Sedative. May only be used in the existence of an emergency. Must have a veterinary prescription. Meat withdrawal 8 days; milk discard 4 days.

Also clarified were questions regarding "excipients", inert ingredients in some medical formulations that improve the delivery of the active ingredients. These

could include fillers, extenders, dilutents, wetting agents, solvents, emulsifiers, sustained-release matrices, etc. Excipients will be allowed only for use in the manufacture of drugs, not allowed to be added to feed or feed supplements. Allowed excipients will be those identified by the FDA as Generally Regarded As Safe, or otherwise approved by the FDA. As always, talk to your certifier before using a new product to make sure it will be allowed.

In the same bulletin of the Federal Register, the NOP revised their initial decision to reject Moxidectin as an antibiotic, and said they were initiating "proposed rulemaking to authorize Moxidectin as a livestock medication to control internal parasites". It is NOT allowed yet, but it would appear that it's likely to come. (We'll hope it will be faster than the

pasture policy!)

A big vote of thanks to Dr. Hubert Karreman, Kevin Englebert, and the other members of the NOSB for their efforts in pushing forward these recommendations! ♦

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