

This brochure reviews 7 tips for smart management of your dairy farms.

Careful management is important whether you have 30 cows or 300 cows. Herd size is irrelevant. While these messages focus on milking and dry cows, the same principles apply to calves and heifers.

What do antibiotics do?

Antibiotics are powerful medications designed to kill or stop the spread of bacteria. These drugs are essential for the treatment of many bacterial infections in humans and animals.

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and Clemson University.



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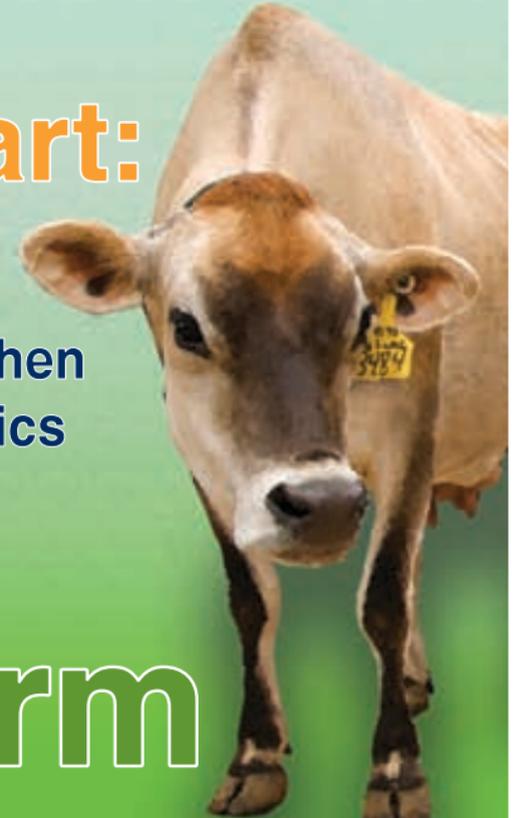
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Get
Smart:

Know When
Antibiotics
Work

on the

Farm



Why are we concerned about antibiotic use in animals?

- Overuse and under dosing of antibiotics can lead to “antibiotic resistance.”
- Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to avoid being affected by medication.
- Bacteria present in an animal who has been given an antibiotic can become resistant to the antibiotic.
- There is a chance that resistant bacteria can be transferred to humans and that resistant bacteria from humans can be transferred to animals. Then certain antibiotics may not be effective in treating humans or animals.
- To avoid antibiotic resistance, ensure proper use of antibiotics so that their effectiveness is preserved for as long as possible. This means using antibiotics only to treat sick animals, NOT to prevent infections.

Follow these 7 tips on dairy farm management to help reduce antibiotic resistance:



Keep clear records and written protocols.



Separate new or sick cattle from the herd.



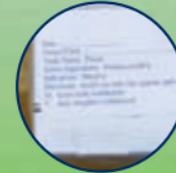
Keep dry cows clearly marked.



Keep animals, equipment, and the environment clean.



Clearly label antibiotics and medicine cabinets/shelves.



Administer antibiotics as prescribed.



Call the veterinarian with animal health questions.

