

JULY DAIRY NEWS

RESIDUE ALERT! We have been informed that FDA has lowered the legal **slaughter** residue threshold for the antibiotic ceftiofur. This antibiotic is in the products Spectramast®, Naxcel® and Excenel®. This does NOT change recommended milk withdrawals. **The milk withdrawal on Spectramast® is still 72 hours. Naxcel® and Excenel® have a ZERO milk residue withdrawal.** However the slaughter recommendations have changed! Spectramast® was a zero day withhold for slaughter. The requirement now is to wait **2 days** after the last treatment prior to sale. Naxcel®, once also a zero day slaughter withhold, now has a **4 day** slaughter withhold requirement. Excenel®, once a 2 day slaughter hold, now has a **3 day** slaughter withhold requirement. These recommendations are the length of time an animal must be held after last treatment before the animal can be sold for slaughter. The FDA has stated that these guidelines are effective **immediately**, even though the factory labels are not yet changed. Be informed!

MILK RESIDUES: Questions still arise regarding persistent positive results for factory milk antibiotic residue tests on animals treated with a number of products. These tests are frustrating for dairymen, as the product has one label recommendation, yet the product still tests positive at the dairy for days or weeks longer than the label says it should. Spectramast® (72 hour recommendation) and Pirsue® (36 hour) are two products in particular that come into question. And here is why there is a problem. All milk antibiotic residue tests are designed and manufactured for use on bulk tank milk. **There are NO tests designed for use on individual cows!** These tests, when used for individual cows, frequently show a ‘false’ positive, for one of two reasons. A first reason for a false positive is because there actually is some antibiotic in the milk. BUT while the antibiotic triggers a positive on the individual cow, the residues will be safely below legal levels in the bulk tank. A bulk tank might be defined as simply the accumulation of milk from two or more cows. The test is not designed to detect the medication levels in single cows. Tests are designed to detect the antibiotic to the low legal levels in the bulk tank. And that’s all we should be concerned about. A second **more common reason** for false positive tests is that the cows in question had mastitis (that’s why they were treated). When a cow has mastitis, the tissue in the cow’s quarter releases inflammatory substances to fight the infection. These substances, released by the cow’s body, will trigger a false positive at a high level when an individual cow is tested, sometimes for up to two weeks or longer. Easily a 50% false positive rate is found in individually tested mastitis cows, whether they are treated or not. The recommendation by manufacturers is to do the following: cows treated with Spectramast® and Pirsue® should be kept out of the bulk tank (all 4 quarters!) for the recommended withdraw period after the last treatment. Then, put the cow into the tank!

If you still are concerned about residues, do something simple. Keep a record of days cows are treated, when treatment was stopped, and when she goes into the tank. If you wind up with a residue (and you won't), you have documentation and Pfizer will stand behind you. Such records are really a good idea anyway, since our minds are more likely to fail than written notes on a calendar or tablet. Written records insure that anyone milking cows can know the status of any cow at any time.

Other products in question? Polyflex® had a 48 hour recommended milk withdrawl. This recommendation is safe! Naxcel® and Excenel® are zero milk withdrawl. These also are reliable.