**Treatment Protocol**

Never forget the four “S’s” of safety: safety of the person treating the cattle, safety of the people working around the cattle, safety of the cattle, and safety of the beef products. Caution should be a focus at all times, but especially when handling sharp instruments and needles, working with scouring cattle (Salmonella can infect you and the cattle), and working around cattle with central nervous system disease. Your feedyard veterinarian can review risks caused by sick or injured cattle and develop safety measures to protect you and employees.

Treatment protocols should be developed for all common health issues. This includes infectious diseases, lameness and digestive disorders. As many of the medications used in cattle require a prescription (Rx), ask the feedyard veterinarian to help develop treatment protocols. A treatment protocol book can serve as use instructions for Rx medications prescribed by the feedyard veterinarian. The FDA mandates that medication orders for Veterinary Feed Directives (VFD) will have an expiration not longer than six months. Have the feedyard veterinarian review the treatment protocol at least every six months. Antibiotic selection should consider the BQA “Producer’s Guide for Judicious Use of Antimicrobials in Cattle” *(see page 35 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide)*.

Health conditions to consider outlining treatment and/or management of include diseases or disorders of the following body systems: respiratory, musculo-skeletal, gastro-intestinal, eye-ear-skin, reproductive, renal, and the central nervous system.



**Dealing with Non-performing Cattle**

Non-performing cattle might be a HIGH RISK for causing a violative residue problem. Non-performing cattle should have records carefully reviewed by both the feedyard veterinarian and manager before being released for salvage. Establish a minimum withdrawal (WD) time that reflects the longest WD for any of the products administered. Animals recovering from illness may have organ damage that interferes with the normal clearing of medications. Marketing decisions should not be made solely on the results of a pre-marketing residue screening test. Critical factors to avoid a violative residue include medication selection, dosage, route of administration, volume per injection site and adherence to prescribed withdrawal times.

In accordance with FDA regulations for use of prescription animal health products, a treatment protocol must be written (hard copy or electronic) and signed by the feedyard veterinarian, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.