**A Producer’s Guide for Judicious Use of Antibiotics in Cattle**

1. **Prevent Problems**: Emphasize appropriate husbandry, management, hygiene, routine health examinations, and vaccinations.
2. **Select and Use Antibiotics Carefully**: Consult with your veterinarian on the selection and use of antibiotics. Have a valid reason to use an antibiotic. Therapeutic alternatives should be considered prior to using antimicrobial therapy.
3. **Avoid Using Antibiotics Important In Human Medicine As First Line Therapy**: Avoid using, as the first antibiotic, those medications that are important to treating strategic human infections.
4. **Use the Laboratory to Help You Select Antibiotics**: Cultures and susceptibility test results should be used to aid in the selection of antimicrobials, as necessary.
5. **Combination Antibiotic Therapy Is Discouraged Unless There Is Clear Evidence the Specific Practice Is Beneficial**: Select and utilize an antibiotic to affect a cure.
6. **Avoid Inappropriate Antibiotic Use**: Confine therapeutic antimicrobial use to appropriate clinical indications, avoiding inappropriate uses such as for viral infections without bacterial complication.

7. **Treatment Programs Should Reflect Best Use Principles**: Regimens for therapeutic antimicrobial use should be optimized using current pharmacological information and principles.

8. **Treat the Fewest Number of Animals Possible**: Limit antibiotic use to sick or at risk animals.

9. **Treat for the Recommended Time Period**: This will minimize the potential for bacteria to become resistant to antimicrobials.

10. **Avoid Environmental Contamination with Antibiotics**: Steps should be taken to minimize antimicrobials reaching the environment through spillage, contaminated ground run off or aerosolization.

11. **Keep Records of Antibiotic Use**: Accurate records of treatment and outcome should be used to evaluate therapeutic regimens and always follow proper withdrawal times.

12. **Follow Label Directions**: Follow label instructions and never use antibiotics other than as labeled without a valid veterinary prescription.

13. **Extra-label Antibiotic Use Must follow FDA Regulations**: Prescriptions, including extra-label use of medications must meet the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and its regulations. This includes having a valid Veterinary/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR).

14. **Sub-therapeutic Antibiotic Use Is Discouraged**: Antibiotic use should be limited to disease prevention or control.