**Preventive Herd Health Protocol**

Every effort should be made to prevent disease and infection in the cattle herd. The most effective way to reduce the potential for antibiotic residues and bacterial resistance is to control the need to use antibiotics – and healthy cattle do not need antibiotics.

Preventive herd health plans will consist of herd management and immunization recommendations.

One herd health plan will not fit every operation; a herd health plan needs to be developed for each individual operation. Work with the feedyard veterinarian to develop a herd health program and review/revise it at least annually.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will develop and implement a herd health program in consultation with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A preventive herd health plan should include:

1. An existing, valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) (see AABP)

2. Target disease syndromes

3. Recommended vaccine(s), feed additives (if any), and parasiticides (if any)

4. Medication receiving, storage and handling protocol *(see page 25 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide)*

5. Appropriate time frame to protect (vaccinate) against targeted pathogens

6. Management considerations to aid in the prevention or reduce the spread of target pathogens

7. Management and treatment protocols for use if prevention efforts fail, including an outline of treatment protocols specified by the feedyard veterinarian

8. Nutritional management protocols developed by the feedyard nutritionist based on the health risk of the cattle.

Management and treatment considerations will need to be discussed and developed for each operation. The feedyard veterinarian will need to develop the treatment protocols with the operation’s management so that both are comfortable with the recommendations.

Sample information that may be used in a herd health plan, as developed with the feedyard veterinarian:

For all cattle and production segments -

* Provide appropriate nutritional feedstuffs
* Handle cattle to minimize stress and bruising
* Administer all injections in front of the shoulder
* Identify any animals treated to ensure proper withdrawal time
* Make records available to the next production sector
* Always read and follow medication label directions
* Keep records of all products administered including: date, animal identification, product used, serial/lot number, amount administered, route of administration, person administering and withdrawal time
* Consult with feedyard veterinarian for additional health procedures appropriate to your area