

Extra-Label Drug Use in Animals

Extra-label drug use, or ELDU, is any use of a medication/drug that is not in accordance with the label directions.

A drug label will specify:

- Dose
- Indication (disease) the drug can be used for
- Route of administration
- Species/class of animal the drug can be used in
- Duration of use
- Withdrawal times for meat and milk (even if the time is zero)

A change to any of these categories results in a need for an ELDU.

Extra-label drug use is allowed in food-producing animals under federal drug rules (referred to as AMDUCA; *Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1995*) and only on the order of a veterinarian with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship, or VCPR.

Because the labeled withdrawal times are based on the approved use, using a drug in an extra-label manner can result in a longer withdrawal time for meat and milk.

Even if a drug can be purchased over-the-counter, a veterinarian's order is required to use it in an extra-label manner.

Some drugs are not allowed to be used extra-label under any circumstances (e.g., fluroquinolones and VFD drugs) and some under specific circumstances only (e.g., cephalosporins).

ELDU is only allowed for approved animal and human drugs.

Did You Know?

A drug used in an unapproved class of animals automatically results in a zero-residue tolerance at slaughter and may substantially extend the meat withdrawal time

Example: Giving a drug to a dairy cow when the drug is labeled only for beef cattle