



CgFARAD™ NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

CgFARAD™ - Protecting Animal Health and the Canadian Food Supply

A New Home for the Database

With the pending retirement of Dr Trisha Dowling from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, it was necessary to move the CgFARAD™ database from the UofS servers and change our contact information. Our database is now hosted by FIXRS in Quebec at cgfarad.ca. Requests can be submitted at <https://cgfarad.ca/request-withdrawal-information/>. Dr. Dowling will continue to work as co-director of the CgFARAD™ so there are no changes to the request for withdrawal information service.

The CgFARAD™ provides veterinarians with unbiased expertise on the medicinal withdrawal interval required before animals or animal products can enter the food chain both from a food safety and a residue detection perspective.

**CgFARAD™ responded to
2,725 withdrawal requests in
2024-2025**

Where licensed treatment products for a species or a specific condition are not available, veterinarians are legally permitted to prescribe drugs extra-label. The simplest definition of extra label drug use is a use that is any way different from the exact label instructions for the product including: species, age, route of administration, dose and duration. But, using a drug in an extra label manner means the label withdrawal time for meat, milk or eggs, no longer applies. This is where the CgFARAD™ service plays a crucial role.

A CgFARAD™ recommendation must be obtained when drugs are used extra-label for all processed poultry and eggs. All other CgFARAD™ requests are submitted on a voluntary basis by veterinarians on behalf of their producer clients or feed companies.

CgFARAD™ personnel also assist:

- veterinarians in determining safe withdrawal intervals when animals are accidentally exposed to pesticides, heavy metals or other chemicals;
- feed mills and processors when accidental contamination of feeds occur; and,
- regulatory agencies seeking clinical pharmacological expertise regarding drug residues.

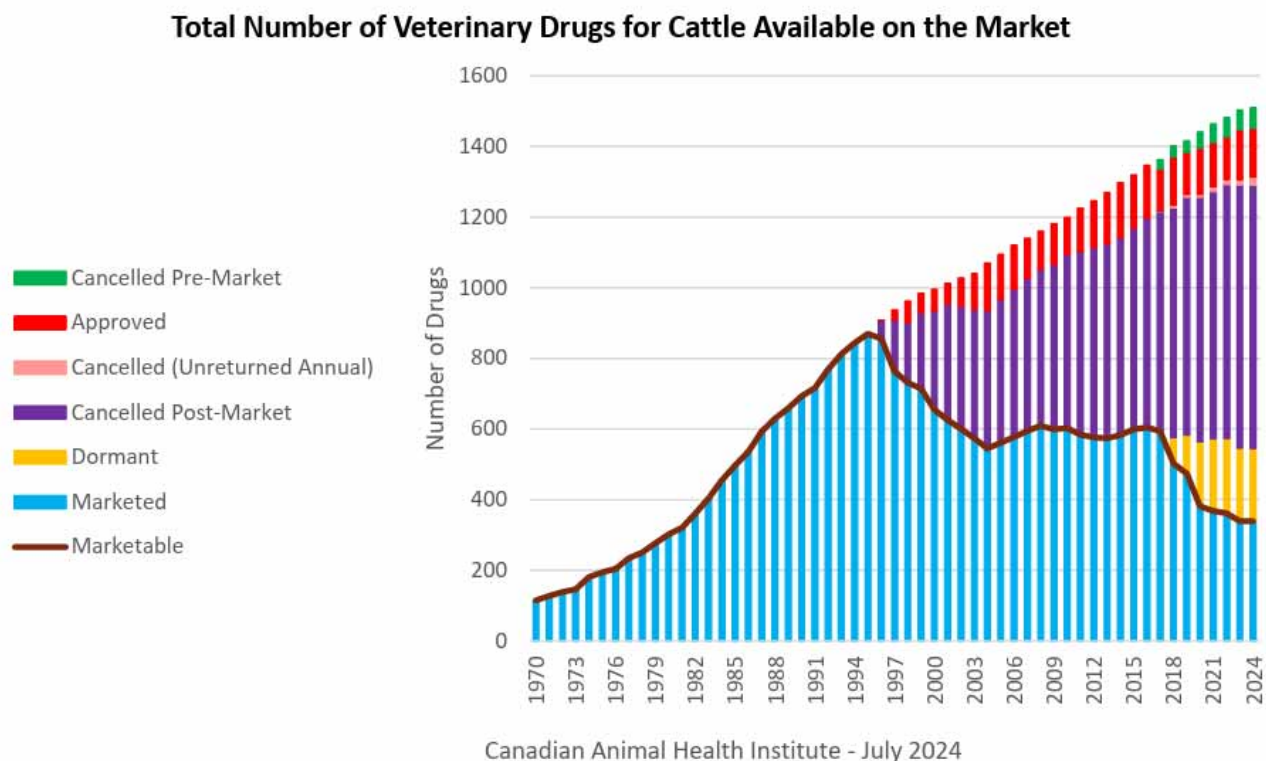
CgFARAD™ is an essential frontline service which helps to perform a critical safety function for public health. The service also protects Canada's food safety reputation with international trading partners and export markets.

May 31, 2025

YEAR IN REVIEW

In our spring newsletter, we provide graphs illustrating requests by pharmaceutical product and by disease for each commodity group. This is valuable information as it illustrates the health challenges with which veterinarians are dealing and highlights where there may be limited on label options. The CgFARAD™ pharmacologists also use this knowledge to identify where drug residue research and depletion studies are needed.

The number of requests received by CgFARAD™ in 2024-2025 was up slightly as compared to 2023-2024 (2,687). In 2022-2023, we saw a significant increase of 493 requests over 2021-2022. However, over the last eight years, there has been a dramatic 42.3% decrease in the availability of licensed veterinary drugs. With the problem of few new food animal drug approvals and the continuing loss of drugs from the market (e.g., gamithromycin, Zactran injectable solution for cattle), we expect that veterinarians will be forced to increase their extralabel drug use to protect animal health.



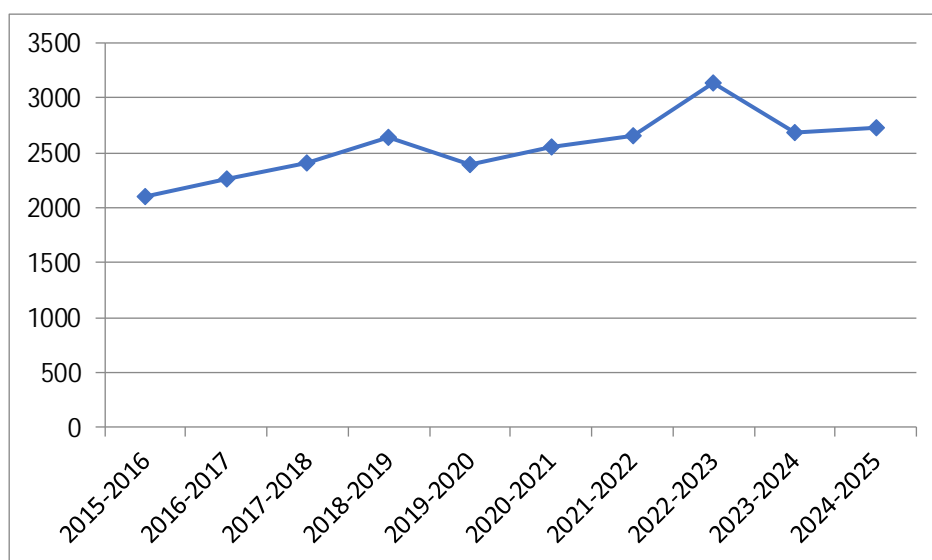
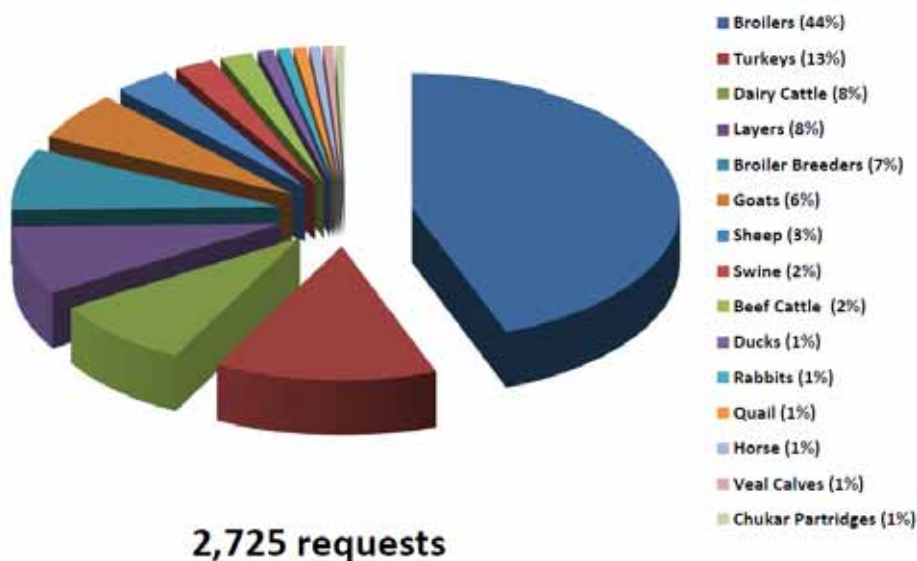
Total number of veterinary drugs available (for cattle only) annually between 1970 and 2024 based on their status as reported in the Health Canada Drug Product Database.

To increase the pressure on the Canadian government to urgently address the issue of the lack of veterinary drug products, organizations from across the animal agriculture sector came together in 2023 to identify potential consensus solutions. Participants included all major organizations representing Canadian livestock farmers, veterinary pharmaceutical and alternative product manufacturers, feed providers, veterinarians and the CgFARAD™. The coalition worked to develop a unified position to share with the government. This included

consensus barriers and solutions, which were captured in the white paper “Improving Access to Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Veterinary Health Products, Livestock Feeds and Veterinary Biologics in Canada”. One of the simplest solutions to address the veterinary drug shortage is for Health Canada to accept veterinary pharmaceuticals already approved by trusted regulatory authorities licensed in other jurisdictions such as the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, and New Zealand. The white paper was distributed to government agencies in the Fall of 2024. The full white paper can be downloaded from the [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#).

CgFARAD™ Requests by Commodity Group

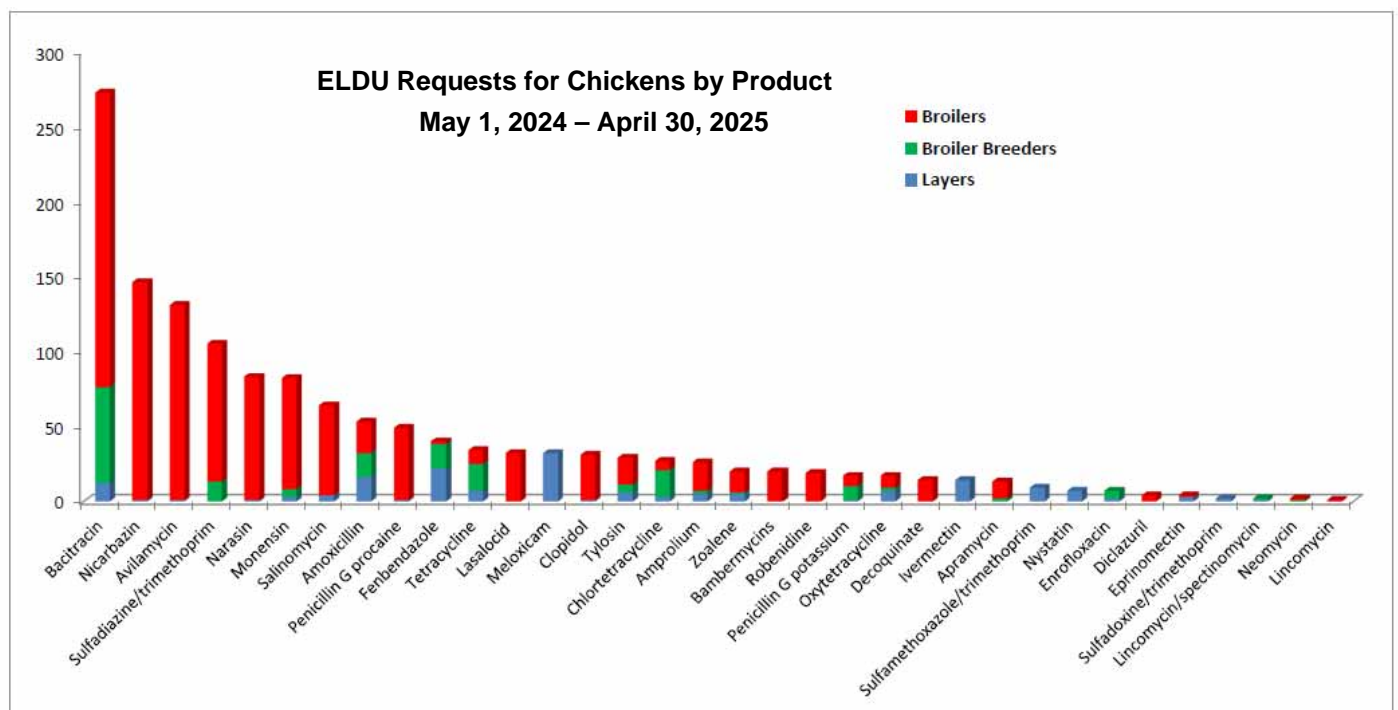
May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025



The CgFARAD™ personnel provide withdrawal guidance as our major mandate but are playing an increasing role in the promotion of antimicrobial stewardship. Dr. Dowling continues to be very active in antimicrobial stewardship. She is a member of the Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VAST) subcommittee of the Clinical & Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), the organization that sets international standards for microbiology laboratories. She serves on the Companion Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship committee of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID). She is the editor in chief of the recently published [Antimicrobial Therapy in Veterinary Medicine](#). Under Dr. Dowling's direction, this sixth edition has been updated to reflect advances in the field, including new international contributors and a broader global outlook. It includes extensive knowledge of both general principles of mechanisms of antimicrobial drug action, as well as chapters dedicated to antimicrobial drug use in a wide range of animal species. As antimicrobial resistance increases as a major global issue in both human and animal health, this book's renewed focus on antimicrobial stewardship in companion animals, in food animals, and on global aspects keeps it at the forefront of this vital field.

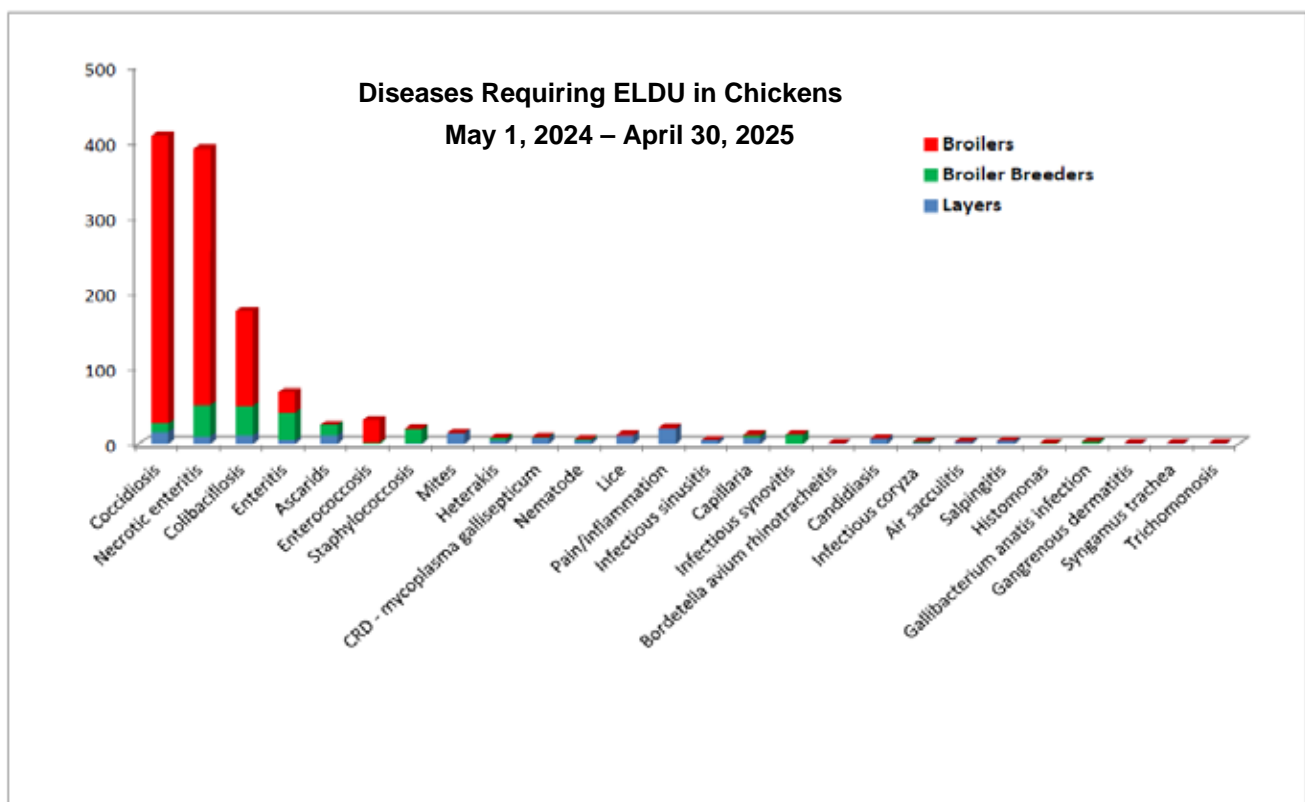
Commodity Group Trends

In all types of chickens, coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis continue to be the predominant diseases that require extra-label drug use (ELDU). The chicken industry has eliminated the preventive use of Category I and II antimicrobials and has a goal to eliminate the preventive use of Category III antimicrobials. So, the use of these drugs has moved from disease prevention requests to treatment in the face of disease requests. This leaves a heavy reliance on bacitracin and avilamycin for the treatment of necrotic enteritis, along with the use of Category IV ionophores to control coccidiosis.

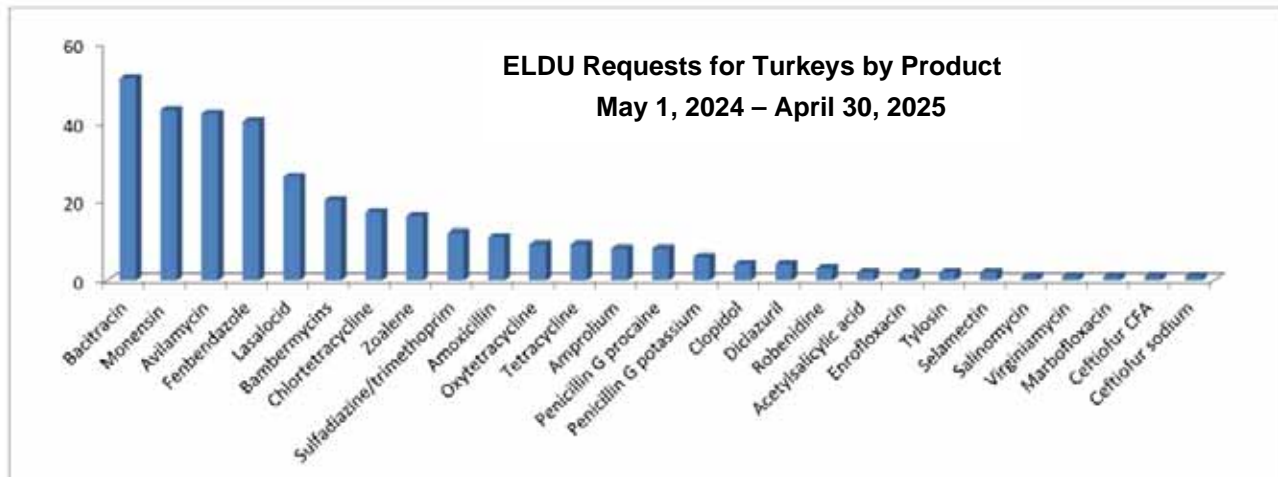
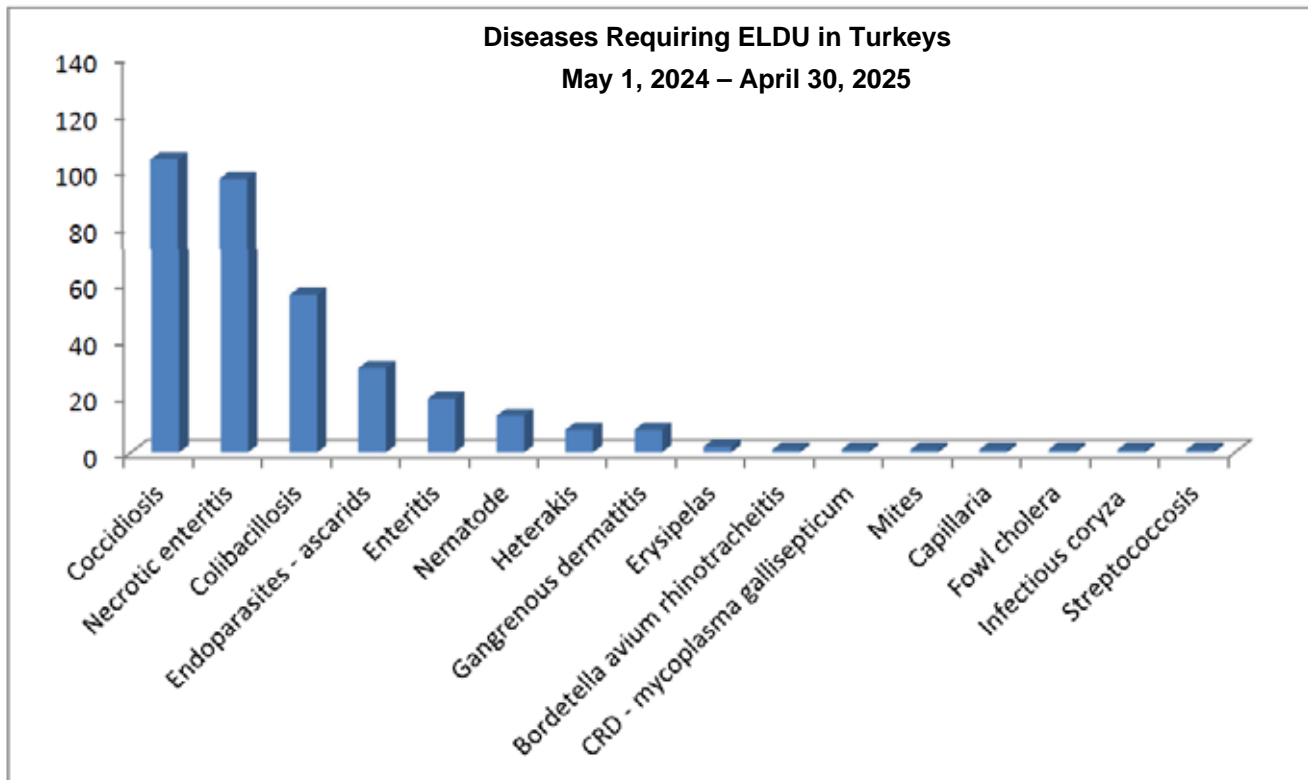


Mites and lice are problematic both in commercial birds and backyard flocks. We do a lot of education for veterinarians for small flock owners, as pesticides cannot be used in an extra-label manner and the CgFARAD™ cannot give withdrawal recommendations for illegal pesticide use. We have residue depletion information for the use of ivermectin in the water, so currently we direct veterinarians to this treatment. For commercial flocks, we continue to wait for the approval of Exzolt™ (fluralaner, Merck Animal Health) for control of mites in Canadian poultry. Due to its strong safety profile, the maximum residue limits (MRLs) will be high and the product is anticipated to have a zero egg withdrawal time in Canada, as it does in the European Union. Unfortunately for the backyard flocks, the smallest size of the product currently is a container that treats 10,000 kg of poultry.

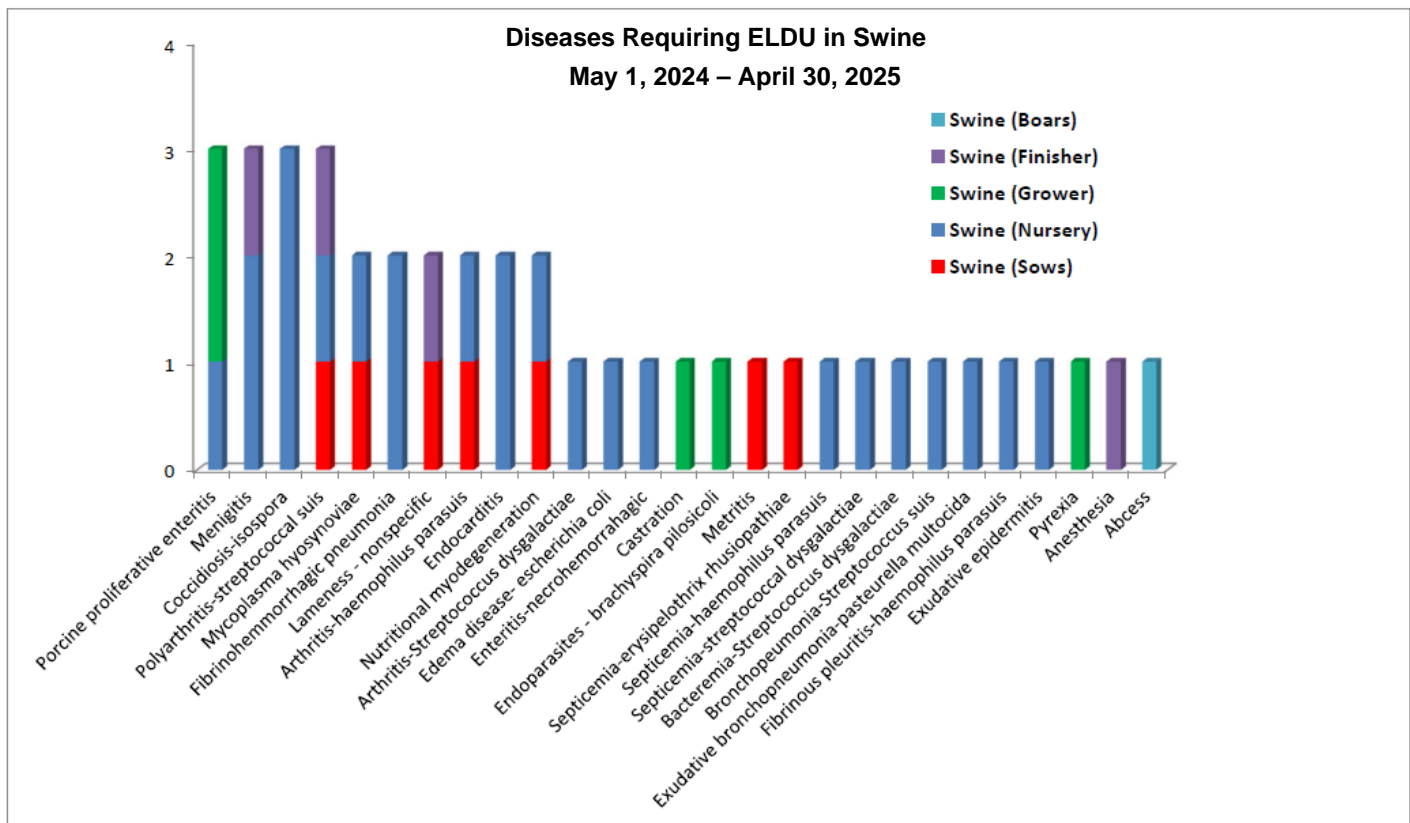
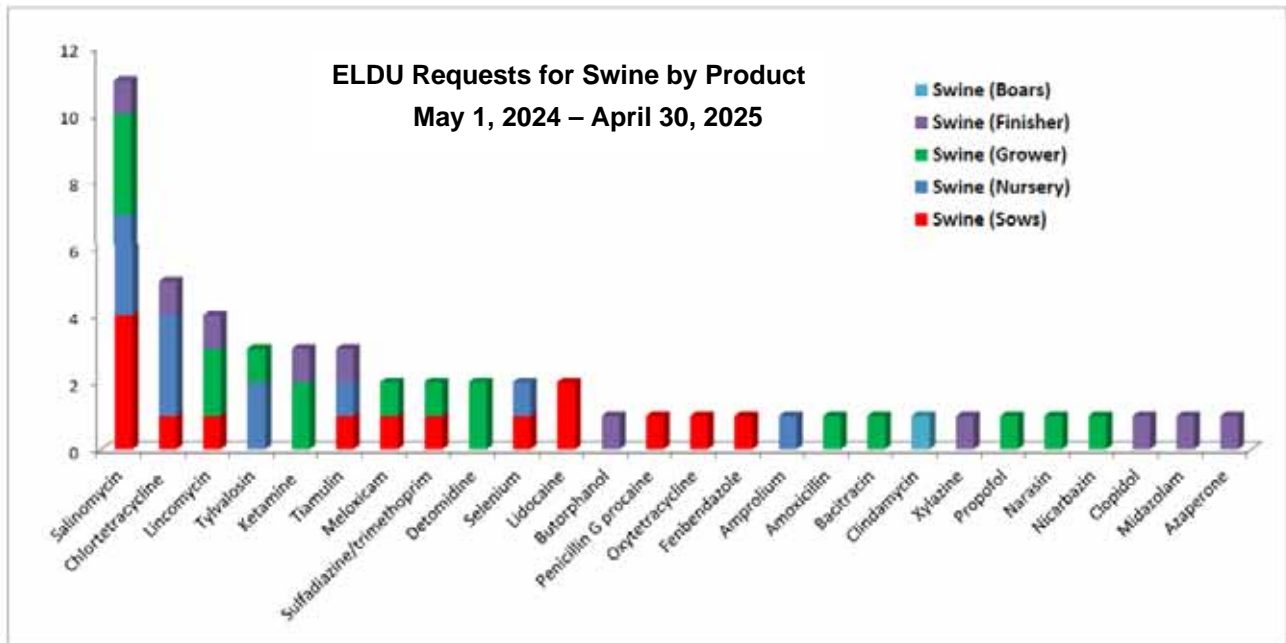
The CgFARAD™ directors formed a small research group with a CFIA scientist and a poultry professor from the University of Saskatchewan and with funding from the Egg Farmers of Canada, investigated the use of dog and cat formulations of fluralaner to determine if they would be suitable for use on small flocks of layers. While the oral dog tablet resulted in high egg residues that would require a long withdrawal period, the topical cat formulation resulted in egg residues that never exceeded the maximum residue limit that has been approved for many years in the European Union. As fluralaner is a drug and not a pesticide, extralabel use is permitted. Once Exzolt™ is approved and there is an MRL for eggs, the CgFARAD™ will be able to guide veterinarians to the use of the feline topical product in small flocks.



As for chickens, necrotic enteritis and coccidiosis remain significant diseases of turkeys that may require extralabel combinations of medications to control.

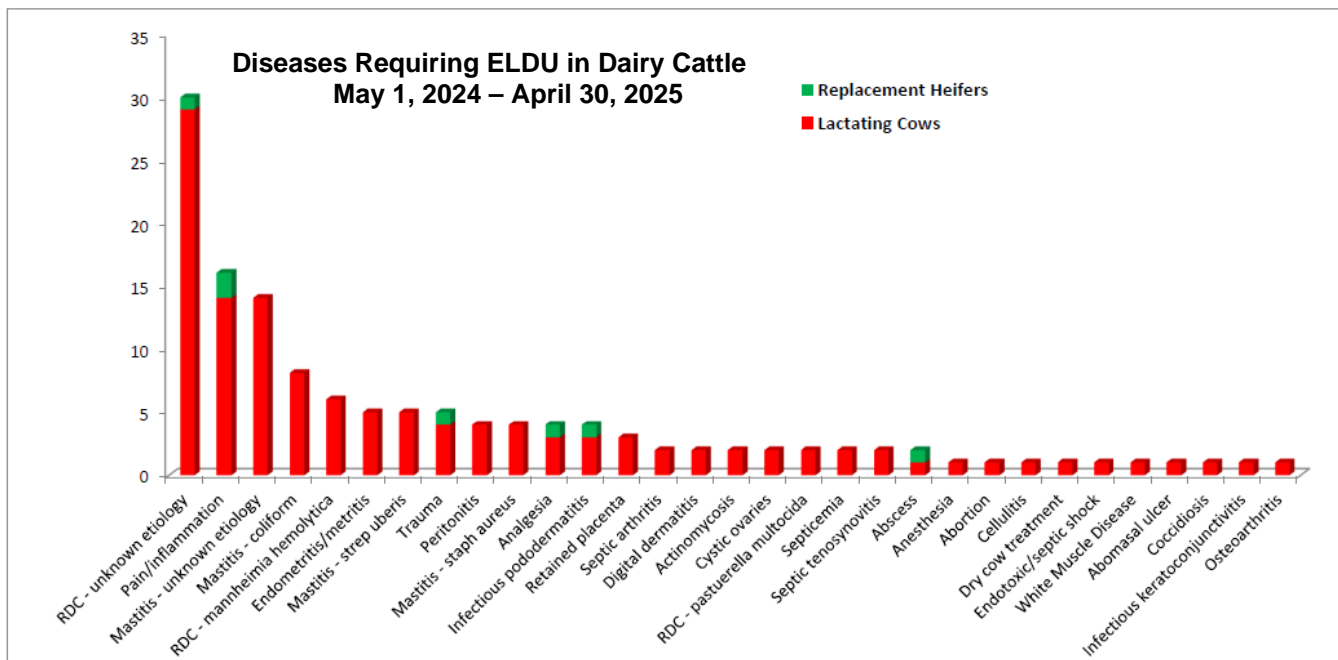
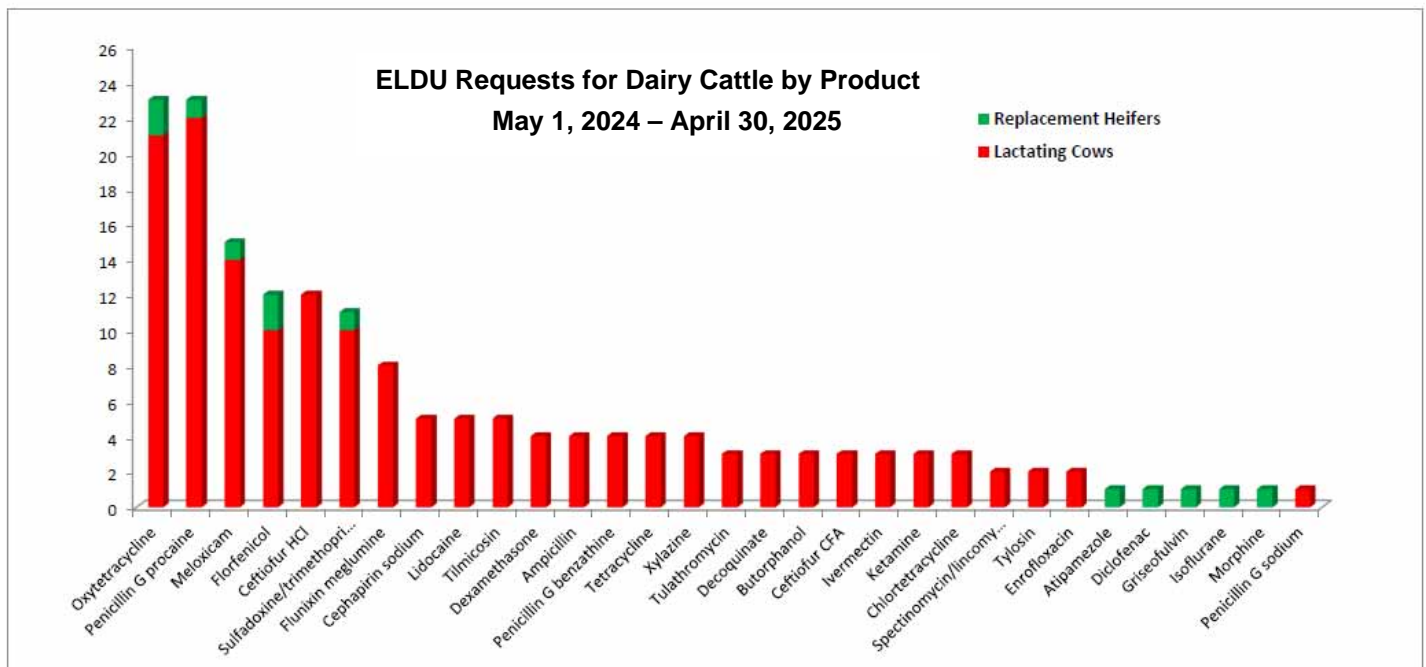


This year in swine we saw an increase in the extralabel use of salinomycin for the control of coccidiosis as well as antimicrobials for the control of infectious porcine diseases.

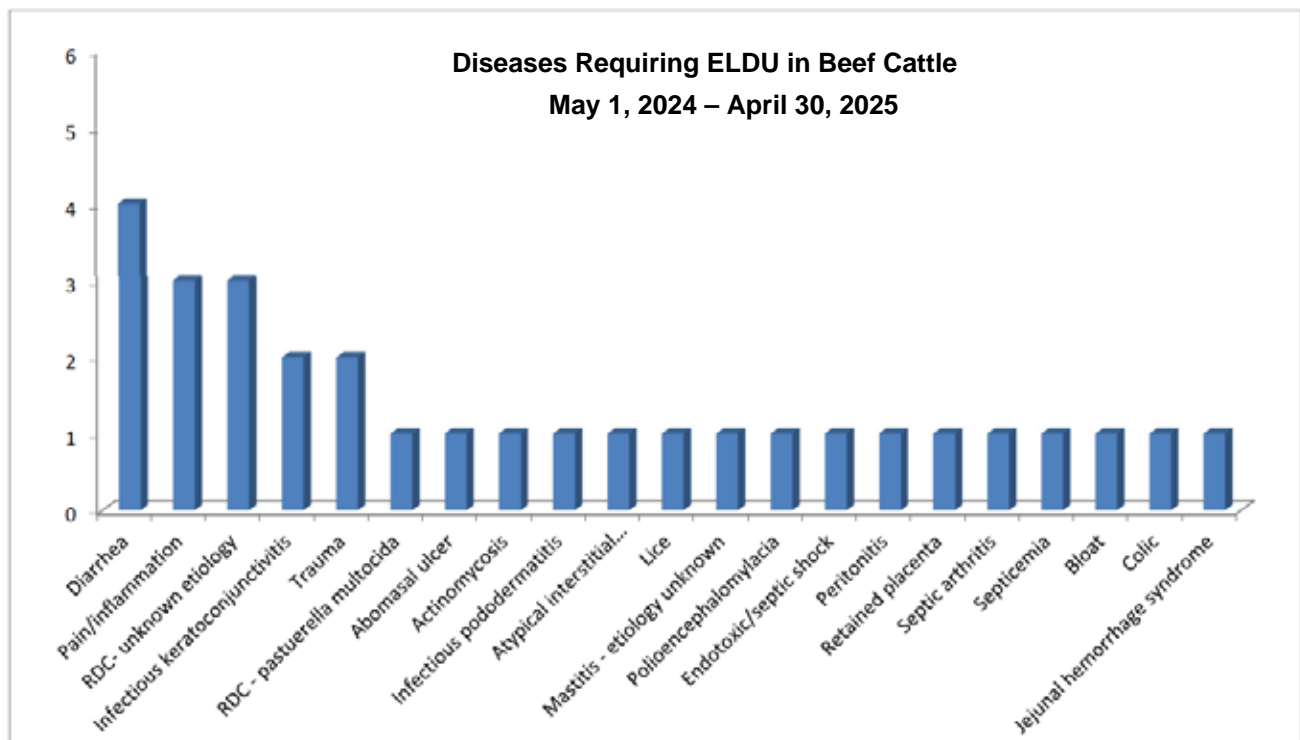
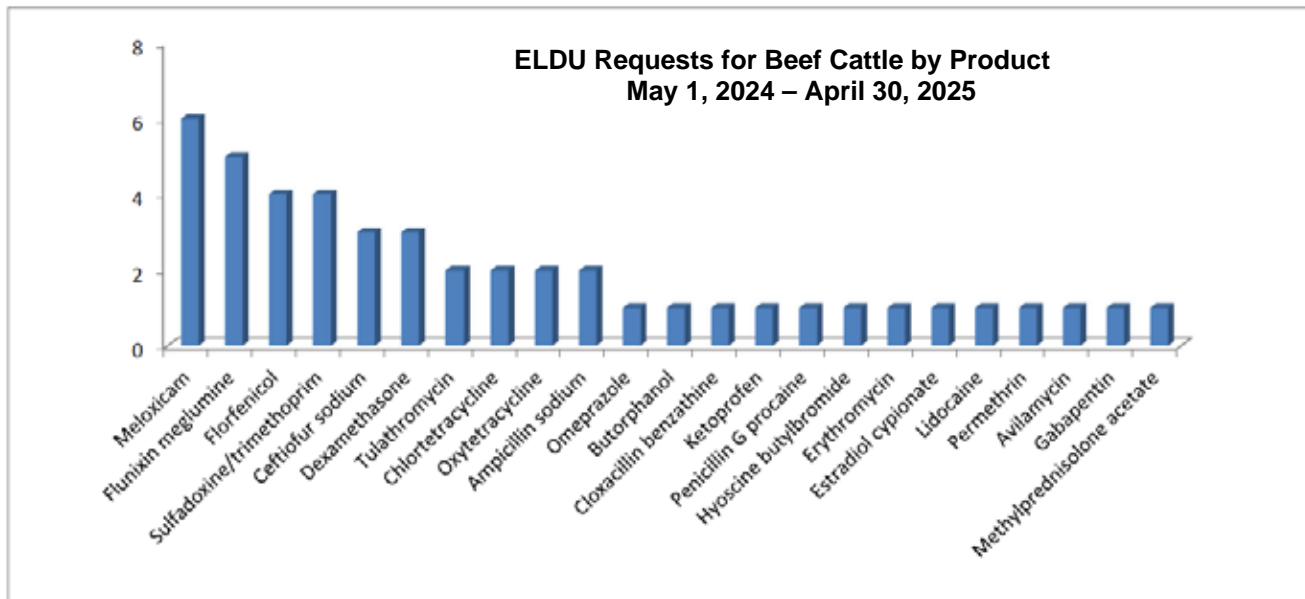


In dairy cattle, treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) and mastitis continue to be the most common reasons for ELDU. Treatment of digital dermatitis and pain and inflammation are also important reasons for ELDU. Drug availability for the on-label treatment of mastitis continues to be a problem as there are now only two approved products for the treatment of lactating dairy cows. Cephapirin (Cefa-Lak®) and ceftiofur (Spectramast® LC) are both cephalosporin antimicrobials: Cephapirin is a Category II antimicrobial (High Importance for human medicine), and ceftiofur is a Category I (Very High Importance for human medicine). With this severe limitation in approved products, it makes it very difficult for dairy veterinarians to practice good antimicrobial stewardship.

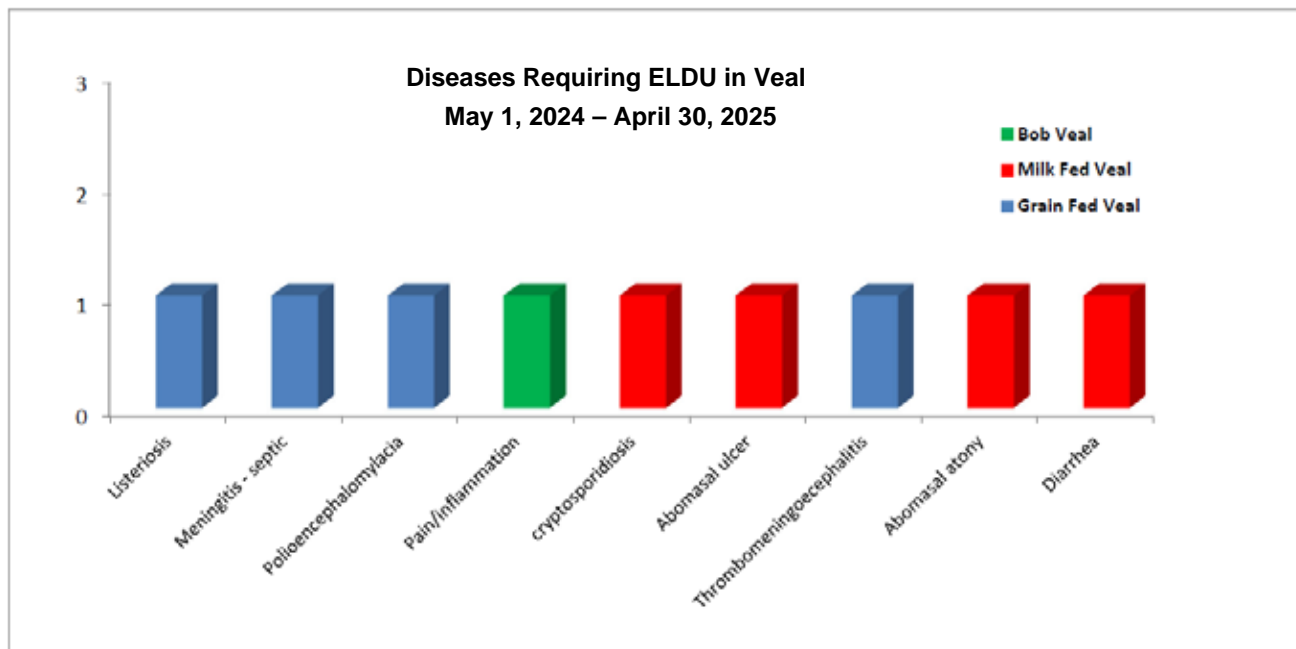
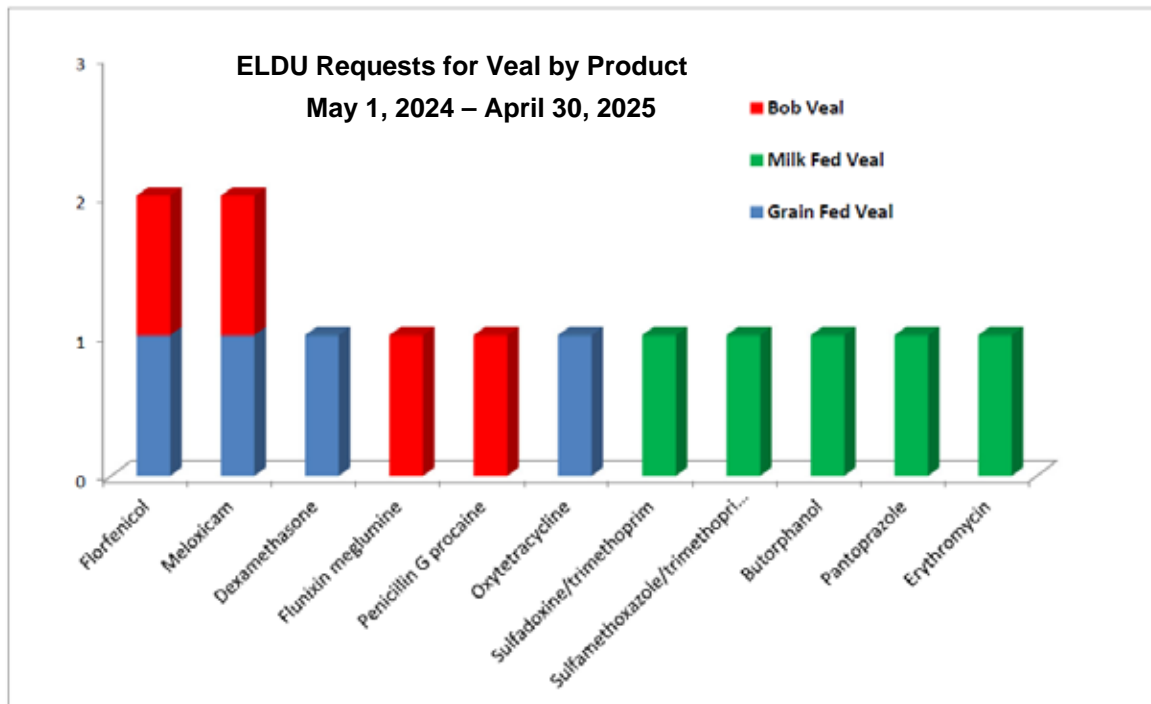
Feed mill errors and accidental exposures are always given emergency priority for dairy cattle. For these situations, CgFARAD™ personnel provide information on drug residue testing in milk and laboratories with the capability of rapid testing to get the impacted producer back online as fast as possible.



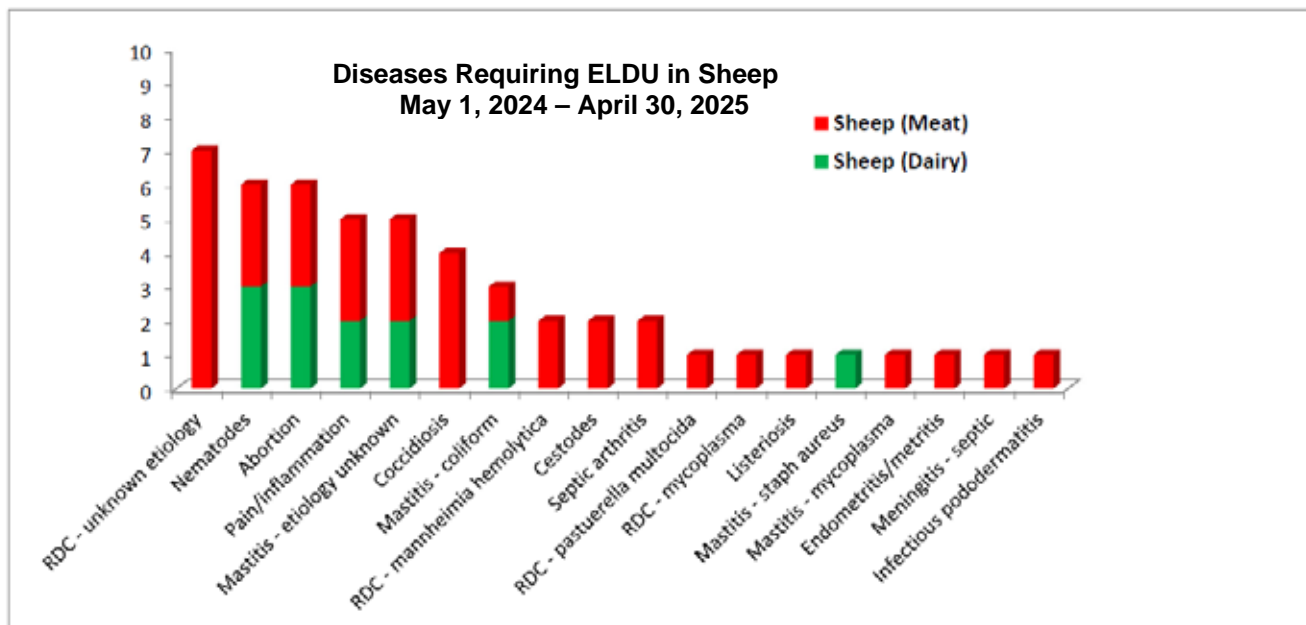
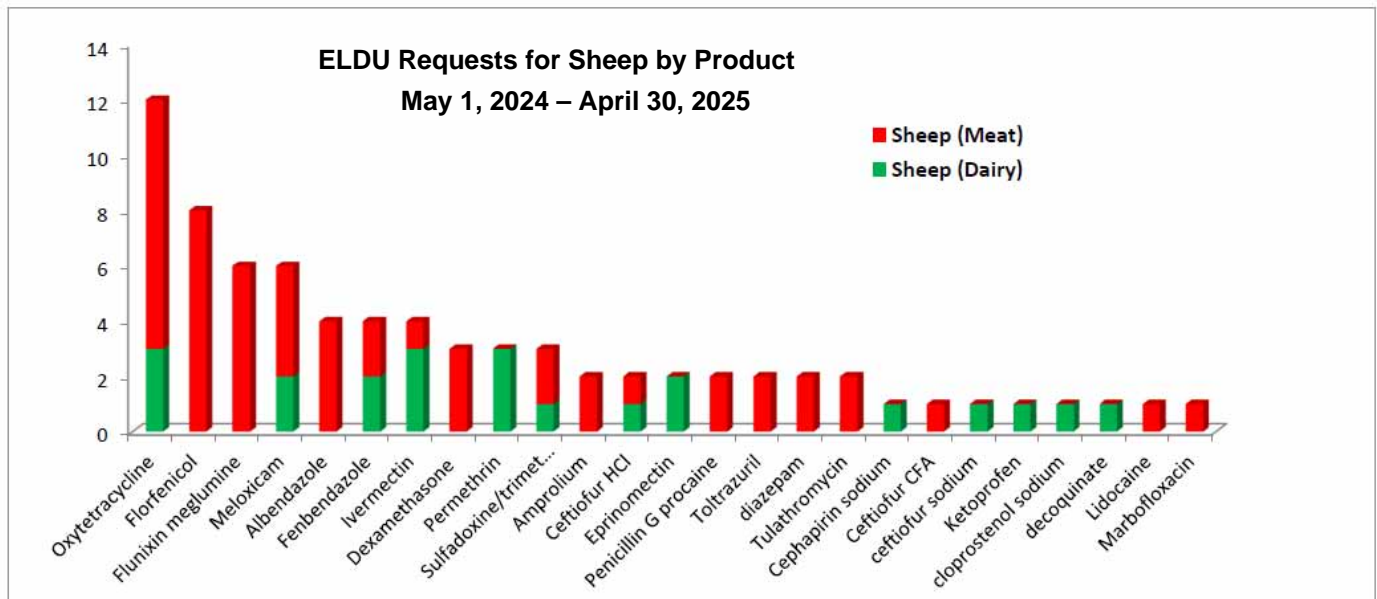
Requests for withdrawal information for ELDU in beef cattle are traditionally low. Cow/calf operations have animals that are far from the time of slaughter and feedlot operations typically do not use drugs in an ELDU manner.

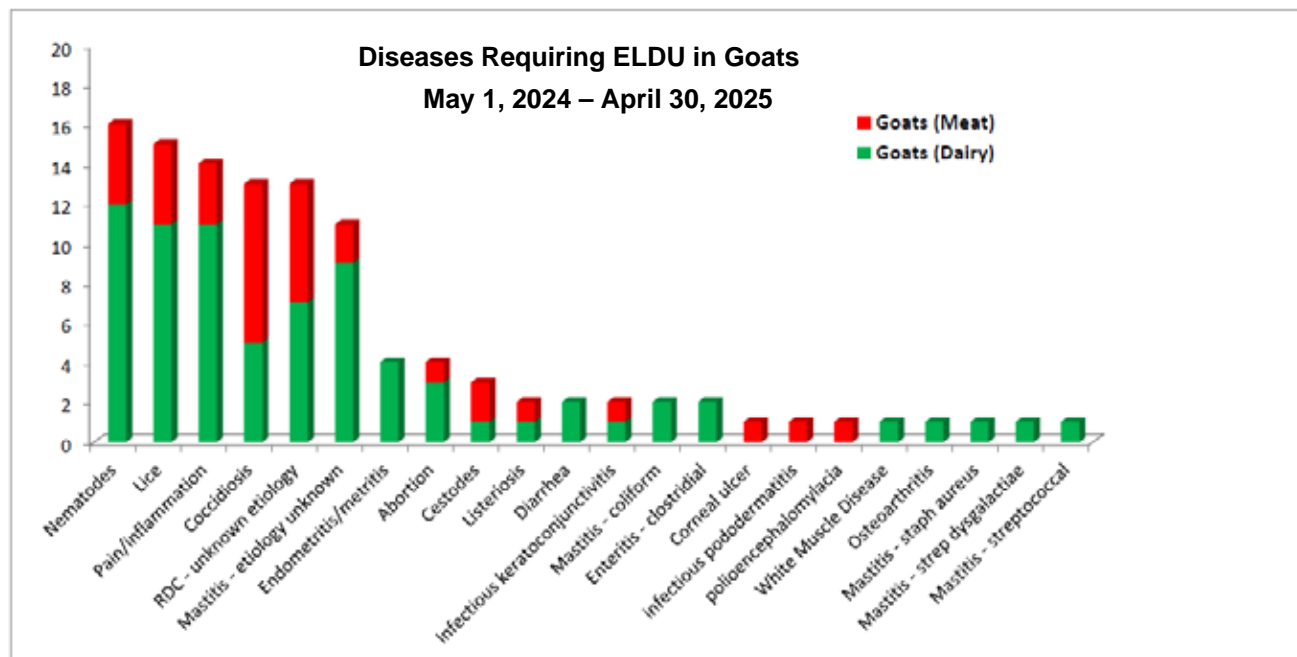
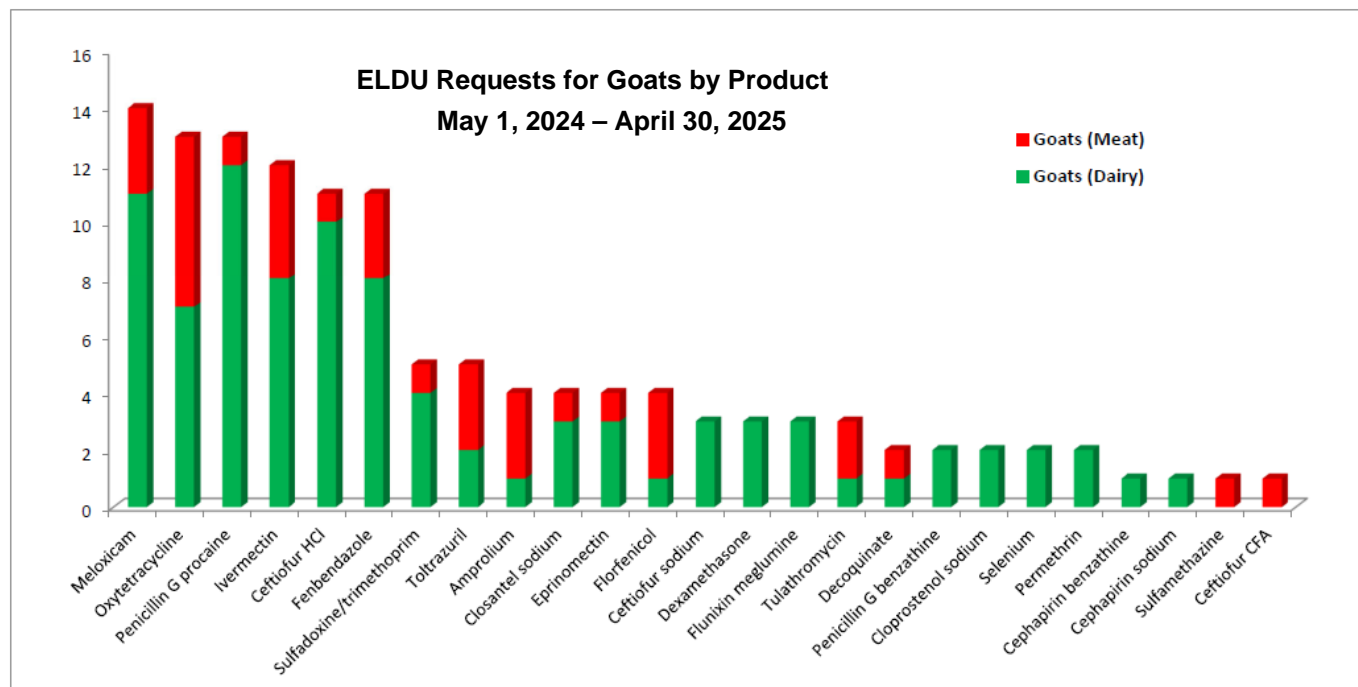


ELDU in the veal sector focuses on the treatment of infectious diseases. The Veterinary Drugs Directorate and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have set guidelines for the MRLs applied to veal. Category I drugs and hormones are enforced to the limits of detection of the CFIA assays and require greatly extended withdrawal times. In keeping with good antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, we also provide advice on the appropriate use of such drugs, including the warning that such use is illegal in the United States. For the other categories of drugs, the CFIA will enforce to the MRLs set for cattle.



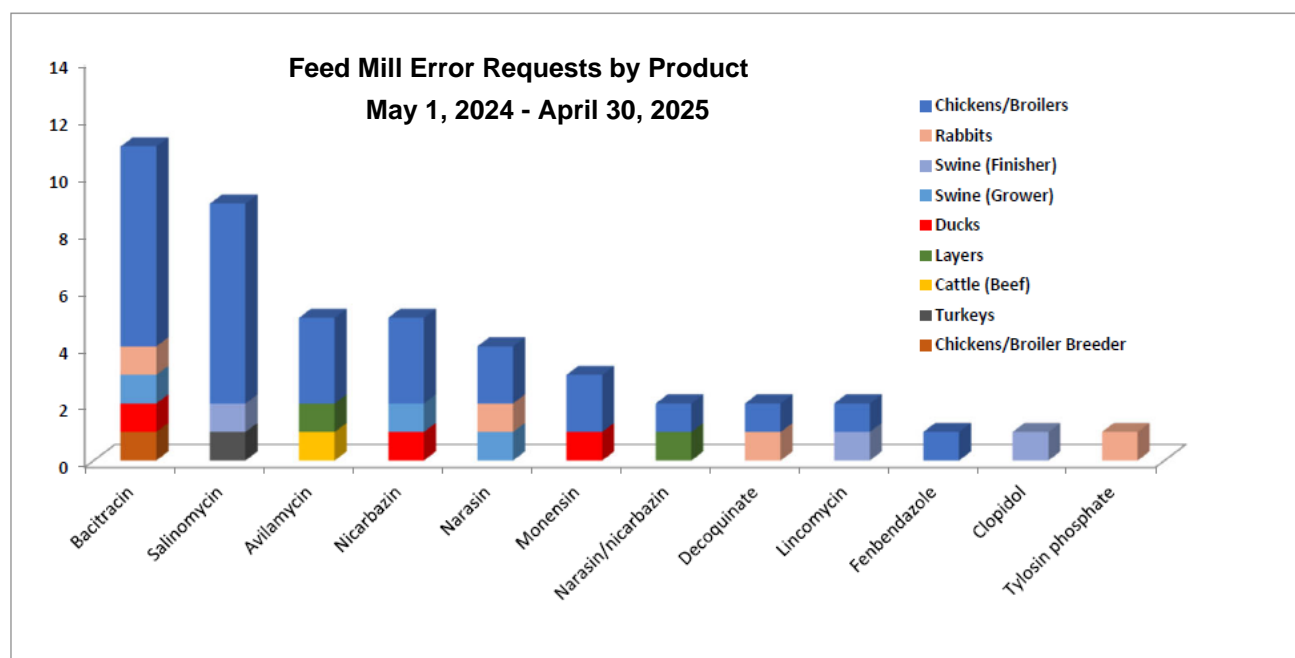
Due to limited drug approvals and bacterial and parasite resistance, antimicrobials, coccidiostats and dewormers are the most commonly used products for ELDU in sheep and goats. Even if parasite resistance is not present, residues in milk of lactating sheep and goats can be very problematic due to persistence and very sensitive detection methods used by regulators. The CgFARAD™ personnel provide a lot of guidance on the appropriate use of dewormers in small ruminants. For antimicrobial use, there is a tendency for small ruminant practitioners to want to offer “recipe books” of drugs, dosages and withdrawal times to producers. The CgFARAD™ personnel also provide a lot of information on good antimicrobial stewardship principles and the need for specific prescriptions and CgFARAD™ withdrawal recommendations for treatment of infectious diseases.





With the launch of the new database in 2017, the CgFARAD™ became able to track requests for “feed mill errors” as we realized that this was not veterinarian instigated extra label drug use but reflected some of the most economically significant requests that we receive. Because of this, these types of requests are often emergencies and require CgFARAD™ personnel to respond quickly and often out of regular business hours.

In 2024-2025, the CgFARAD™ received 46 requests involving feed mill errors, primarily involving poultry and the antimicrobials and coccidiostats used to control necrotic enteritis and coccidiosis. In many cases, we find that there is little to no risk of a detectable residue or human food safety issue. In one case, our expert opinion prevented the disposal of \$75,000 worth of processed broilers. In some cases, we are able to advise dilution or redirection of the medicated feed so that it can still be used. Unfortunately, in some cases we do recommend testing of products from exposed animals to ensure human food safety or recommend disposal of the feed.



The chart below shows a comparison of ELDU requests by commodity over the past several years. The total number of requests in 2024-2025 increased slightly over 2023-2024 reflecting the general upward trend seen since 2015. A spike in 2022-2023, of 493 additional requests, was the highest number of annual requests received.

The chart highlights the diversity of species groups served by the CgFARAD™ team. The “other” category in 2024-2025 was comprised of six alpaca requests and two for bees. However, most requests are for the major farmed animal species.

Species	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
Chickens/Broilers	1195	1116	1704	1057	819	866	796	756	825	801
Turkeys	362	465	413	317	455	399	380	512	482	446
Dairy Cattle	229	215	172	190	230	274	266	261	232	266
Chickens/Layers	228	212	213	325	330	145	144	137	92	69
Broiler Breeders	202	191	193	237	227	228	259	119	79	101
Goats	158	140	114	156	153	134	241	189	196	90
Sheep	90	60	85	66	110	80	170	164	125	61
Swine	65	72	50	63	50	62	171	38	40	56
Beef Cattle	53	60	63	68	67	72	82	64	88	48
Ducks	26	19	22	24	48	16	20	5	6	13
Rabbits	21	25	26	22	23	24	24	22	21	21
Quail	21	3	3	8	2	4	5	10	5	9
Horses	18	15	17	45	12	19	23	21	10	19
Veal Calves	16	8	12	11	4	14	15	45	23	48
Chukar Partridges	15	37	16	6	1	6	10	6	8	19
Pheasants	11	4	0	3	7	2	6	6	6	4
Bison	2	22	9	8	5	22	11	13	11	7
Elk (Wapiti)	2	6	5	8	2	5	5	4	0	3
Fish	2	2	5	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
Pigeons	1	2	3	0	3	2	3	14	0	4
Deer	0	2	0	6	0	7	0	1	1	5
Geese	0	1	5	8	2	3	2	5	0	3
Guinea Fowl	0	2	5	9	1	2	2	8	1	0
Other	8	8	7	10	5	7	4	0	5	10
Total	2725	2687	3142	2649	2557	2393	2640	2404	2257	2105

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