



## CgFARAD™ NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

### CgFARAD™ - Protecting Animal Health and the Canadian Food Supply

#### Established MRLs and Withdrawal Times Published for Dexamethasone

CgFARAD™ is proud to announce that decades of scientific persistence and collaboration have culminated in legal maximum residue limits (MRLs) and withdrawal times (WDTs) for dexamethasone now formally added to product labeling. What began years ago with a problem first identified by CgFARAD™ pharmacologist Dr. Trisha Dowling, an urgent gap in evidence-based withdrawal guidance for dexamethasone, set in motion a research journey that gained momentum when CgFARAD™ Co-Director Dr. Ron Johnson secured funding to investigate the issue. The results of the study are published in the [Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics September 2023](#). This research, published with clear recommendations for WDTs, has now translated into regulatory action by Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate, with pharmaceutical companies incorporating these validated withdrawal times directly into their labels. This milestone marks the successful completion of a long scientific and regulatory pathway, strengthening food safety and supporting veterinarians and producers across Canada.

#### 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.

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.

**CgFARAD™ responded to  
3,540 withdrawal requests in  
2025-2026**

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.

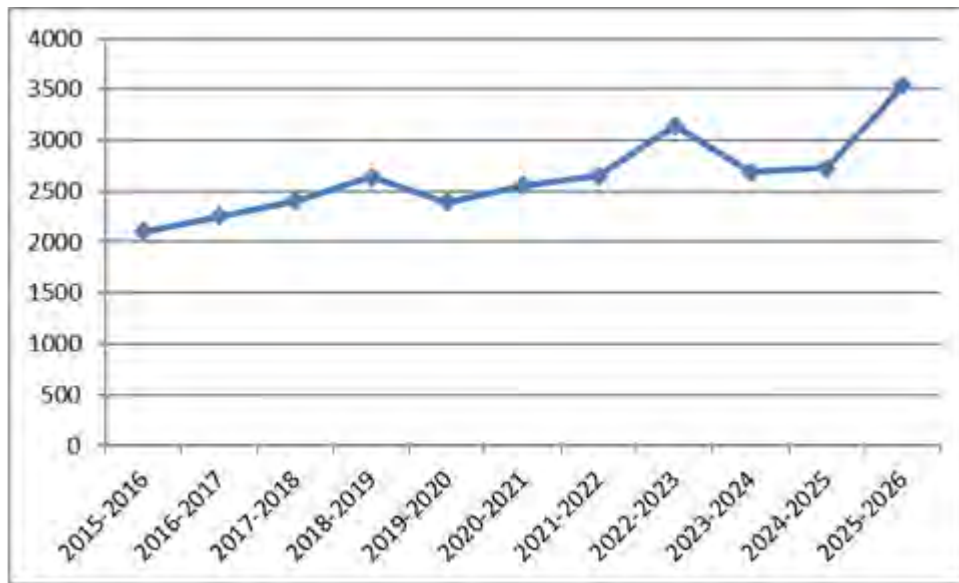
CgFARAD™ personnel also assist:

- 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™ received 3,540 withdrawal recommendation requests in 2025-2026. This was a **30% increase** from 2024-2025 (2,725 requests)! The chart below provides a comparison of ELDU requests by commodity over the past 10 years which shows a steady increase. The number of requests in 2025-2026 at 3,540 was the highest number of annual requests on record.

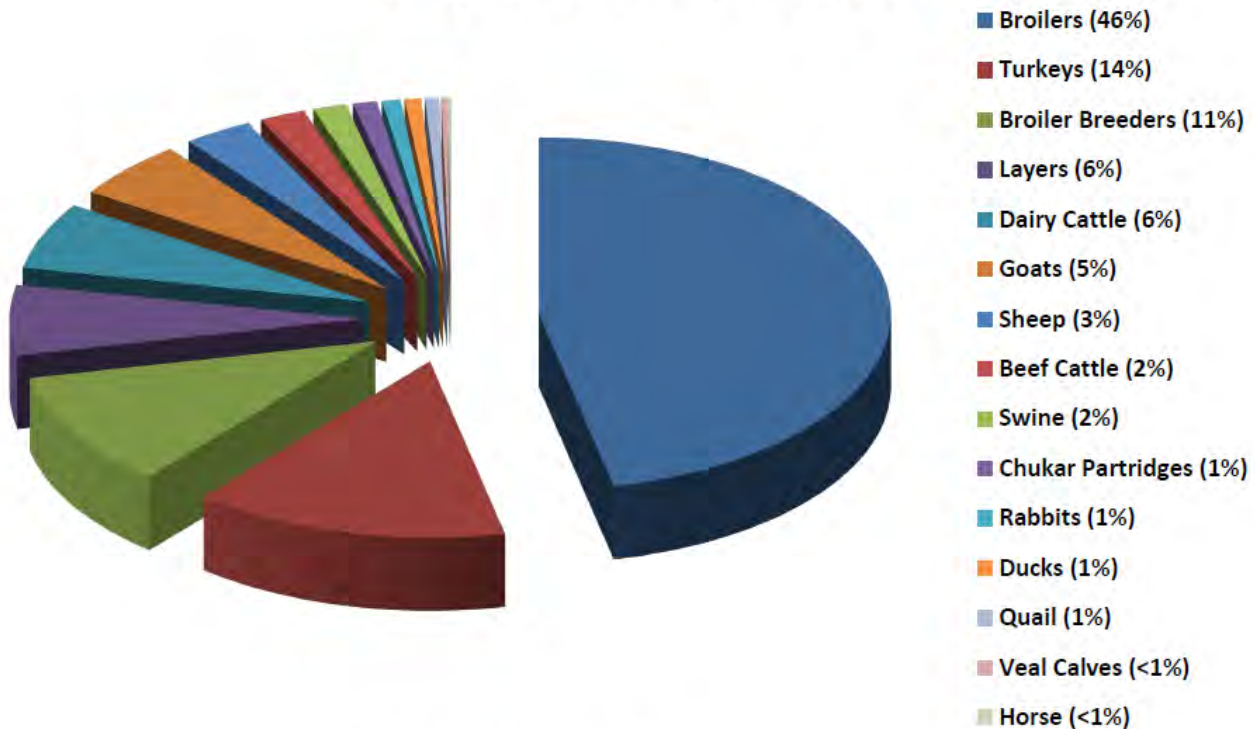
The chart highlights the diversity of species groups served by the CgFARAD™ team. The “other” category in 2025-2026 was comprised of eight alpaca requests and four for ostriches. However, most requests are for the major farmed animal species.

Species	2025-2026 requests	2024-2025 requests	2023-2024 requests	2022-2023 requests	2021-2022 requests	2020-2021 requests	2019-2020 requests	2018-2019 requests	2017-2018 requests	2016-2017 requests	2015-2016 requests
Chickens/Broilers	1621	1195	1116	1704	1057	819	866	796	756	825	801
Turkeys	502	362	465	413	317	455	399	380	512	482	446
Broiler Breeders	369	202	191	193	237	227	228	259	119	79	101
Dairy Cattle	225	229	215	172	190	230	274	266	261	232	266
Chickens/Layers	224	228	212	213	325	330	145	144	137	92	69
Goats	185	158	140	114	156	153	134	241	189	196	90
Sheep	110	90	60	85	66	110	80	170	164	125	61
Beef Cattle	73	53	60	63	68	67	72	82	64	88	48
Swine	53	65	72	50	63	50	62	171	38	40	56
Chukar Partridges	38	15	37	16	6	1	6	10	6	8	19
Rabbits	29	21	25	26	22	23	24	24	22	21	21
Ducks	26	26	19	22	24	48	16	20	5	6	13
Quail	22	21	3	3	8	2	4	5	10	5	9
Pheasants	17	11	4	0	3	7	2	6	6	6	4
Veal Calves	9	16	8	12	11	4	14	15	45	23	48
Guinea Fowl	8	0	2	5	9	1	2	2	8	1	0
Elk (Wapiti)	5	2	6	5	8	2	5	5	4	0	3
Horses	4	18	15	17	45	12	19	23	21	10	19
Fish	4	2	2	5	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
Geese	2	0	1	5	8	2	3	2	5	0	3
Bison	1	2	22	9	8	5	22	11	13	11	7
Deer	1	0	2	0	6	0	7	0	1	1	5
Pigeons	0	1	2	3	0	3	2	3	14	0	4
Other	12	8	8	7	10	5	7	4	0	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3540</b>	<b>2725</b>	<b>2687</b>	<b>3142</b>	<b>2649</b>	<b>2557</b>	<b>2393</b>	<b>2640</b>	<b>2404</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>2105</b>



## CgFARAD™ Requests by Commodity Group

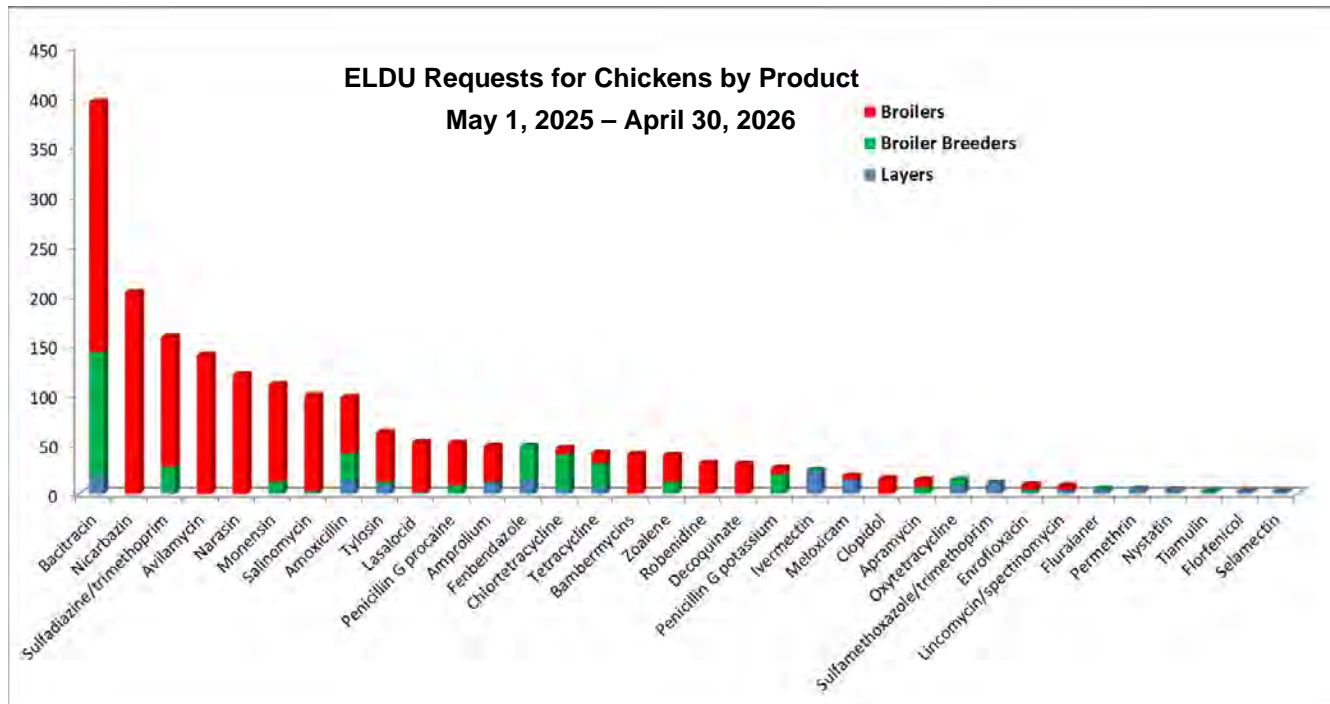
May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026



**3,540 requests**

## Commodity Group Trends

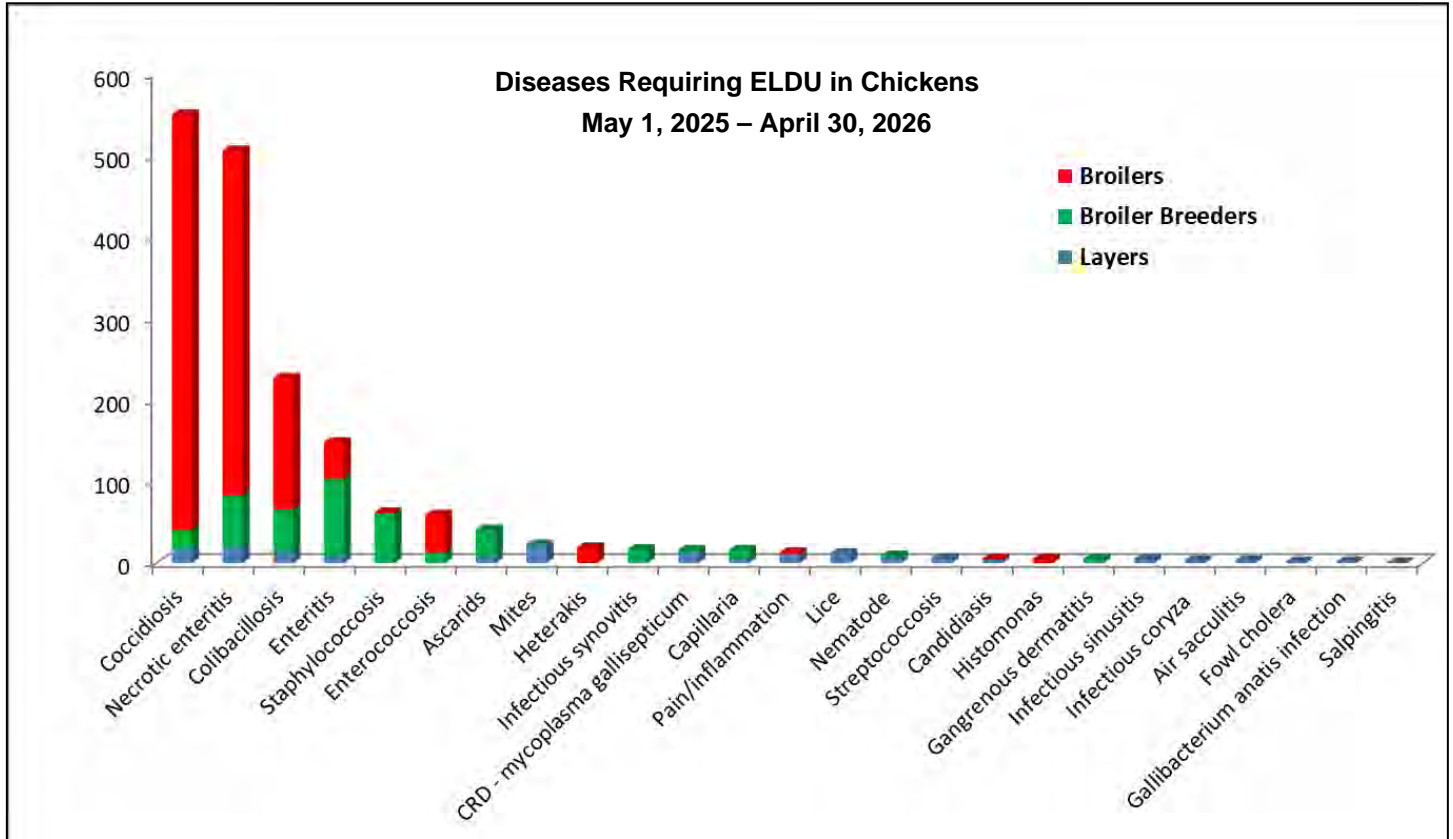
In all types of chickens, coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis continue to be the predominant diseases that require extra-label drug use (ELDU). The chicken industry has eliminated the preventive use of Category I and II antimicrobials and has a goal to eliminate the preventive use of Category III antimicrobials. 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.



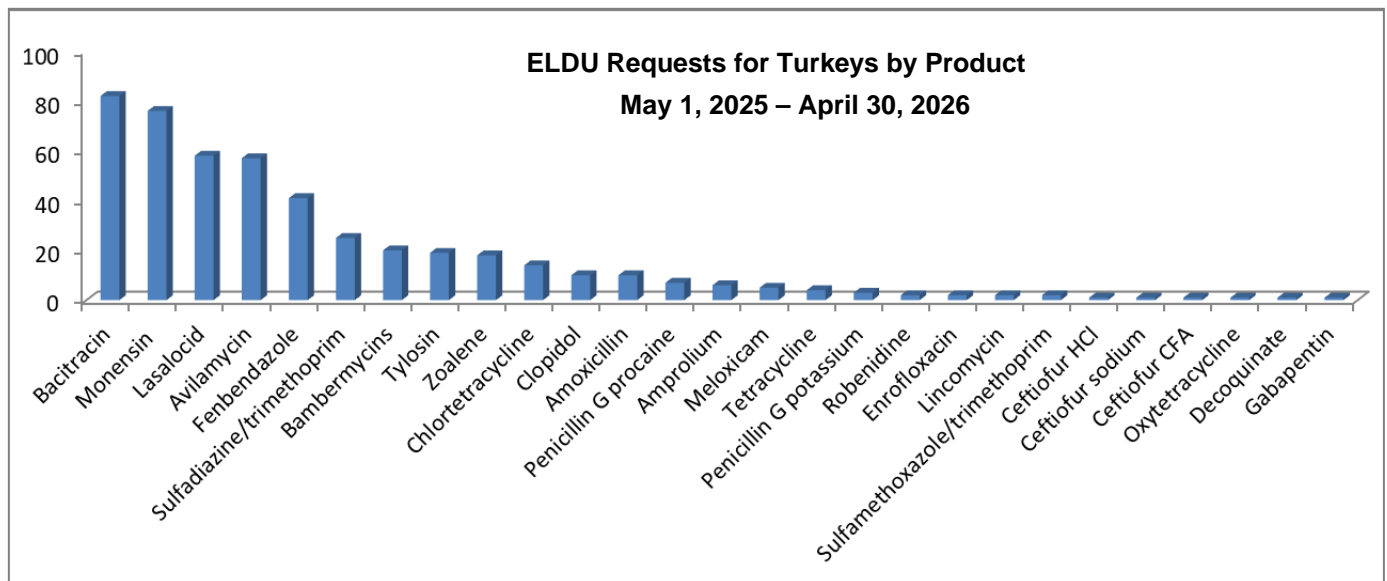
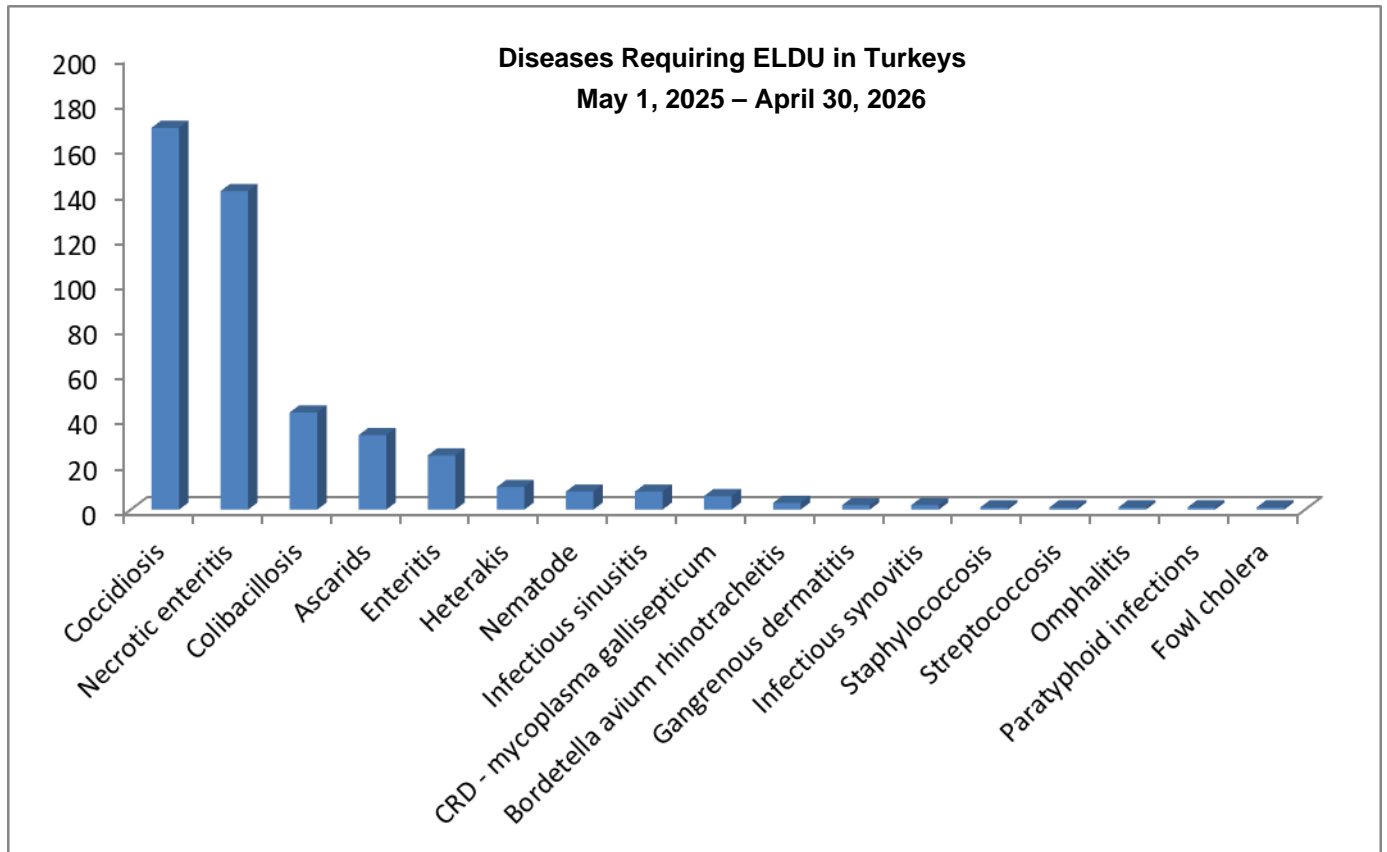
Both the US FARAD and CgFARAD™ frequently deal with requests for withdrawal advice for the treatment of small flock/backyard poultry. Backyard poultry keeping became popular during the COVID years and owners struggle to find veterinary services for their birds. Often the birds are seen at small animal or mixed animal practices, where practitioners are not aware of the restrictions on drugs for poultry. Sick or injured birds are frequently treated with amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, a Health Canada Category I antimicrobial. Antimicrobials in Category I are considered of very high importance in human medicine as they meet the criteria of being essential for the treatment of serious bacterial infections and limited or no availability of alternative antimicrobials for effective treatment in case of emergence of resistance to these agents. Chicken Farmers of Canada's Responsible Antimicrobial Use Strategy is a sector-wide approach built on the foundations of reduction, surveillance, stewardship, research and innovation, including avoidance of Category I antimicrobials in poultry production. Therefore, we provide guidance in our replies for the use of less critical antimicrobials where possible.

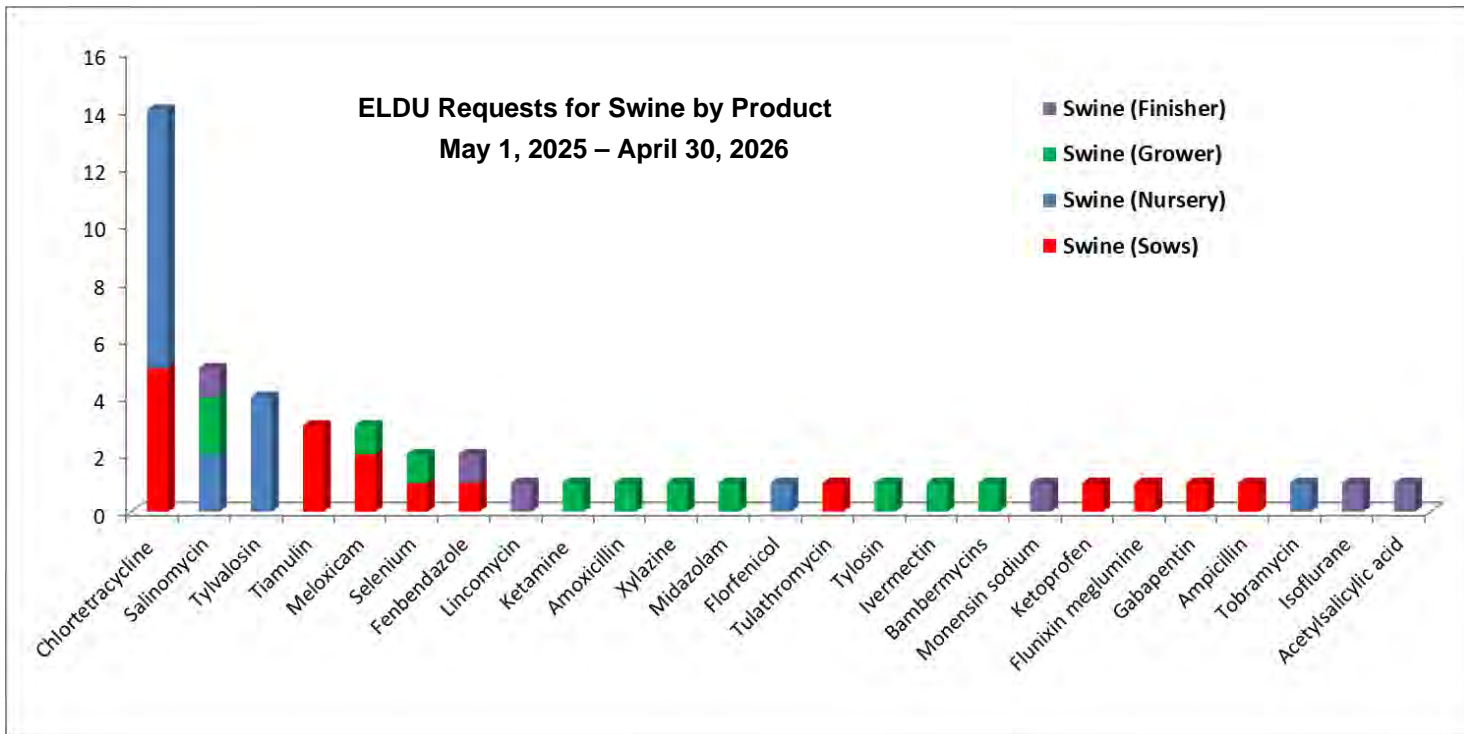
In addition, practitioners are keen to provide adequate control of pain and inflammation in these birds. But unfortunately, there are no nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs approved for use in poultry. As can be seen in the graphic, meloxicam is the NSAID of choice in layers. We have been able to access egg residue information and will provide withdrawal guidance for this drug.

Backyard bird owners tend to treat their birds as pets and are often willing to pay for surgical procedures, so we are also asked about anesthetic drug withdrawals. A recent request involved a chick that had had a band placed too tightly around its leg. The leg necrosed and the owner’s wanted the practitioner to amputate the affected limb and they intended to 3D print a prosthetic leg for their chick!

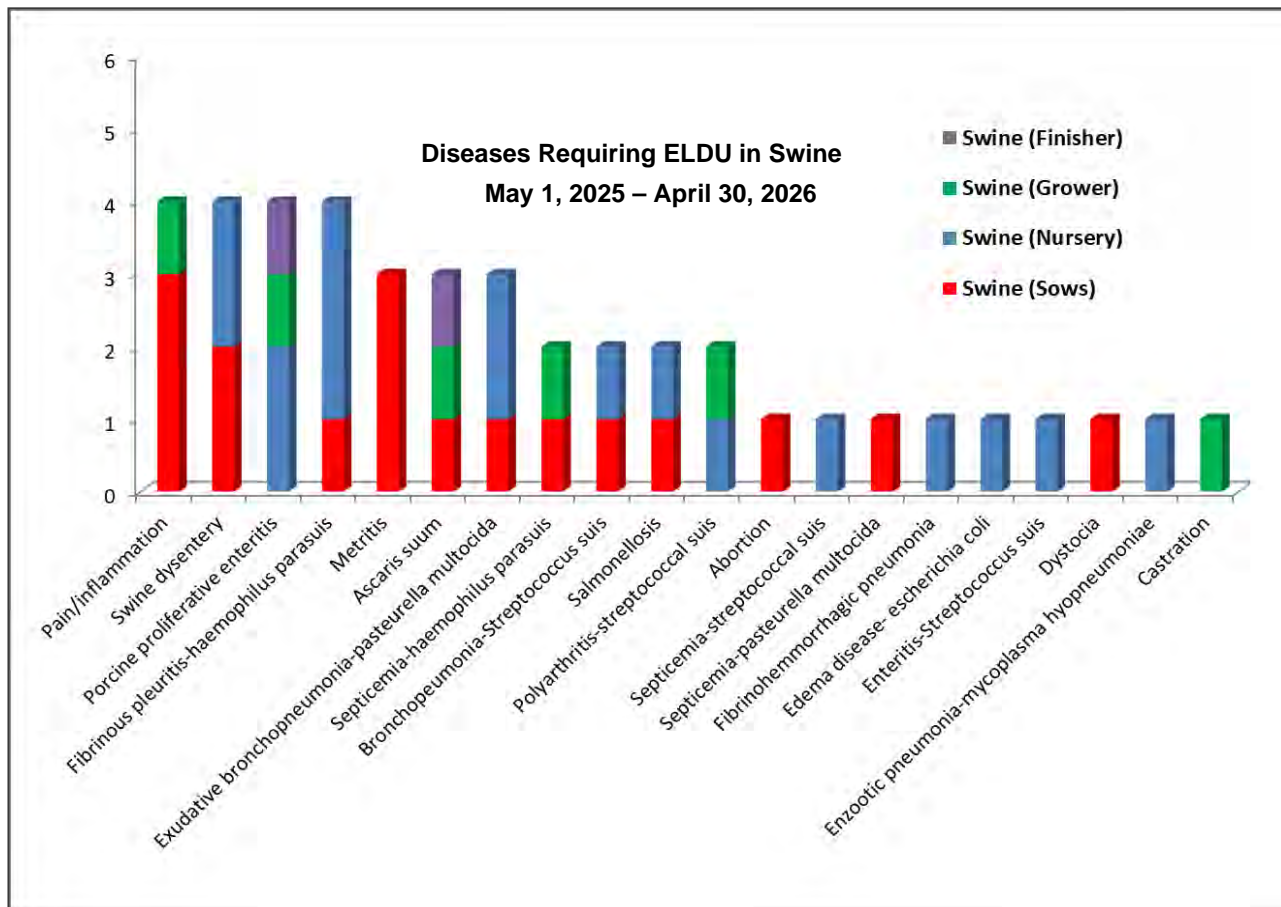


As for chickens, necrotic enteritis and coccidiosis remain significant diseases of turkeys that may require extra-label combinations of medications to control.



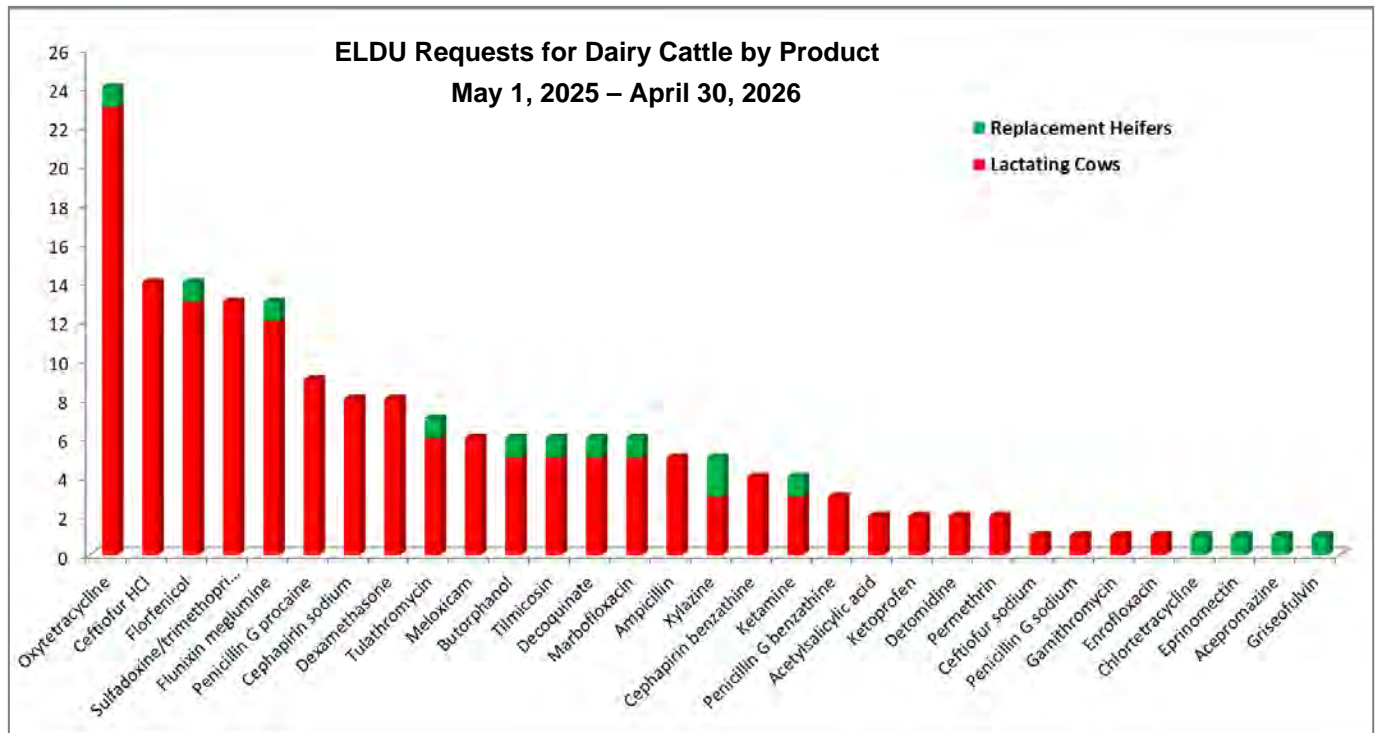


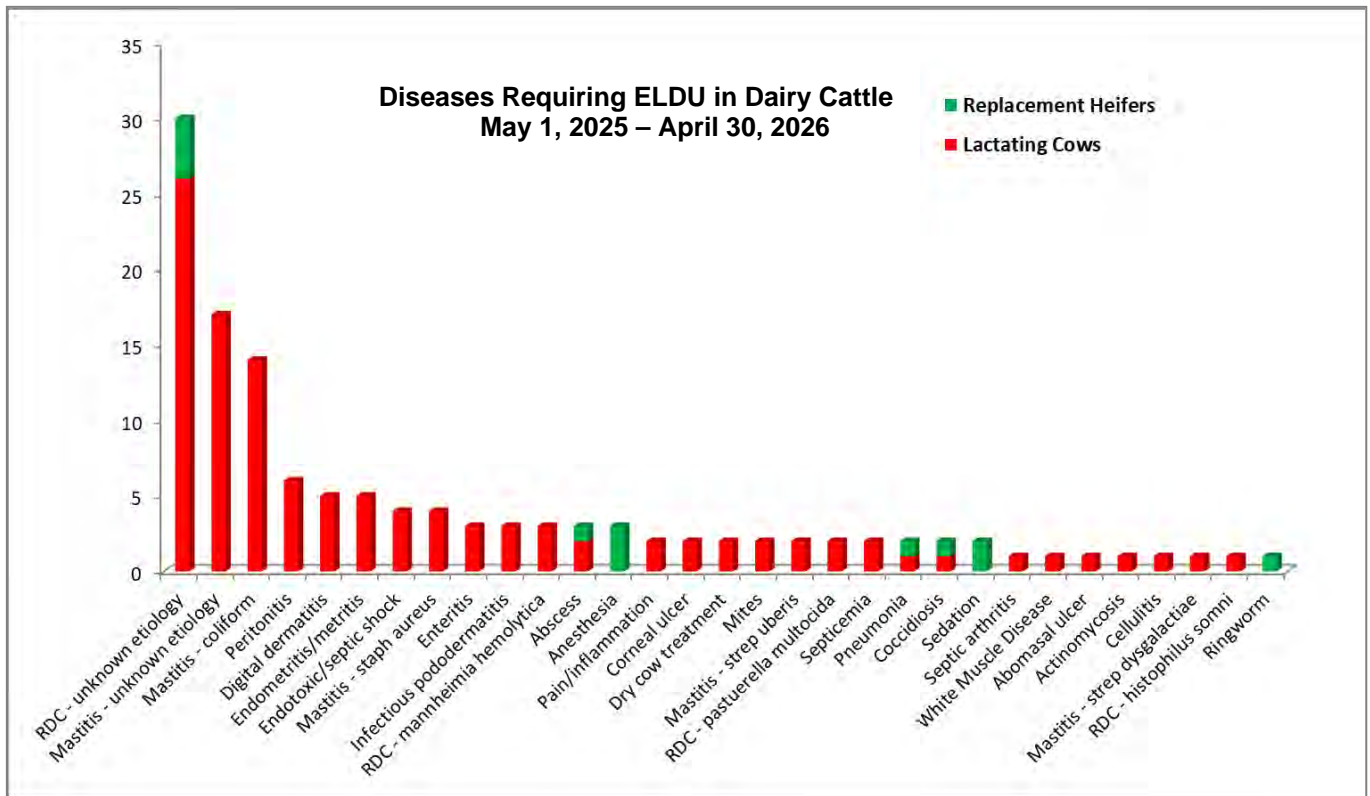
The primary reason for ELDU in swine continues to be antimicrobial treatments for infectious diseases, especially respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. We are frequently consulted for advice on drugs used for anesthesia and pain control in swine. Swine veterinarians have few on-label treatment options in this area.



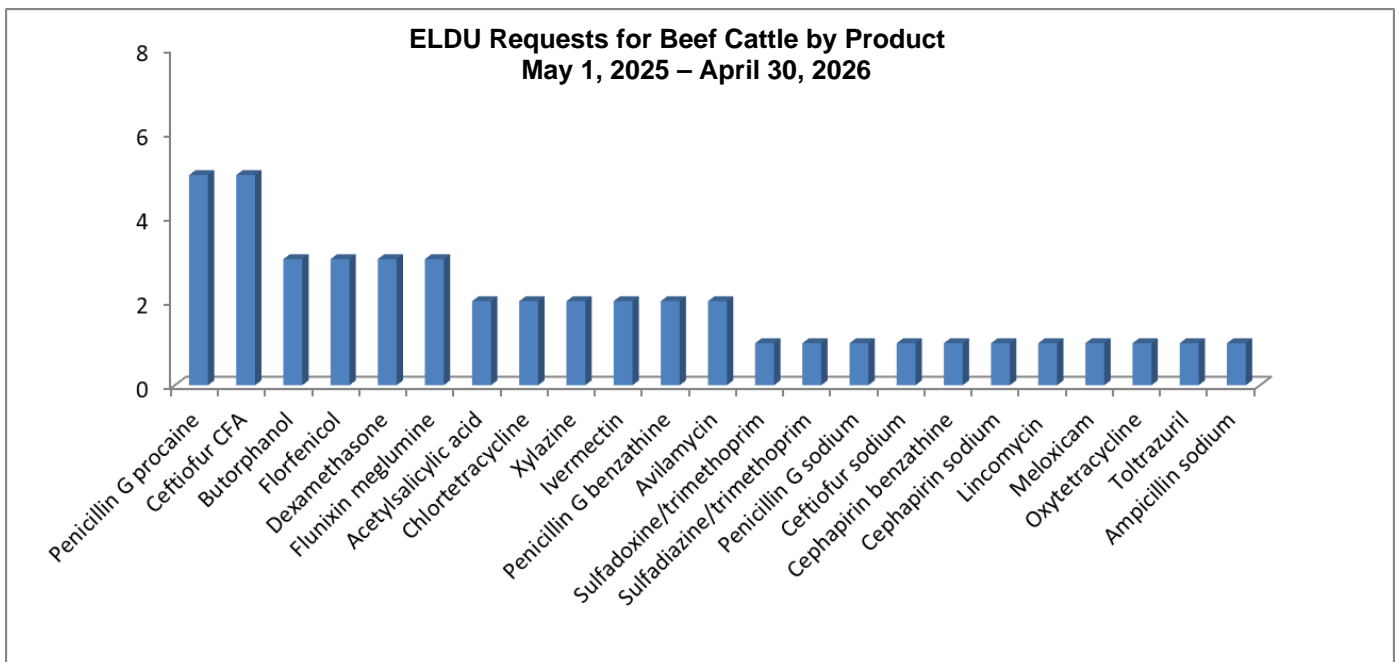
In dairy cattle, treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) and mastitis continue to be the most common reasons for ELDU. Treatment of digital dermatitis and pain and inflammation are also important reasons for ELDU. Drug availability for the on-label treatment of mastitis continues to be a problem 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.

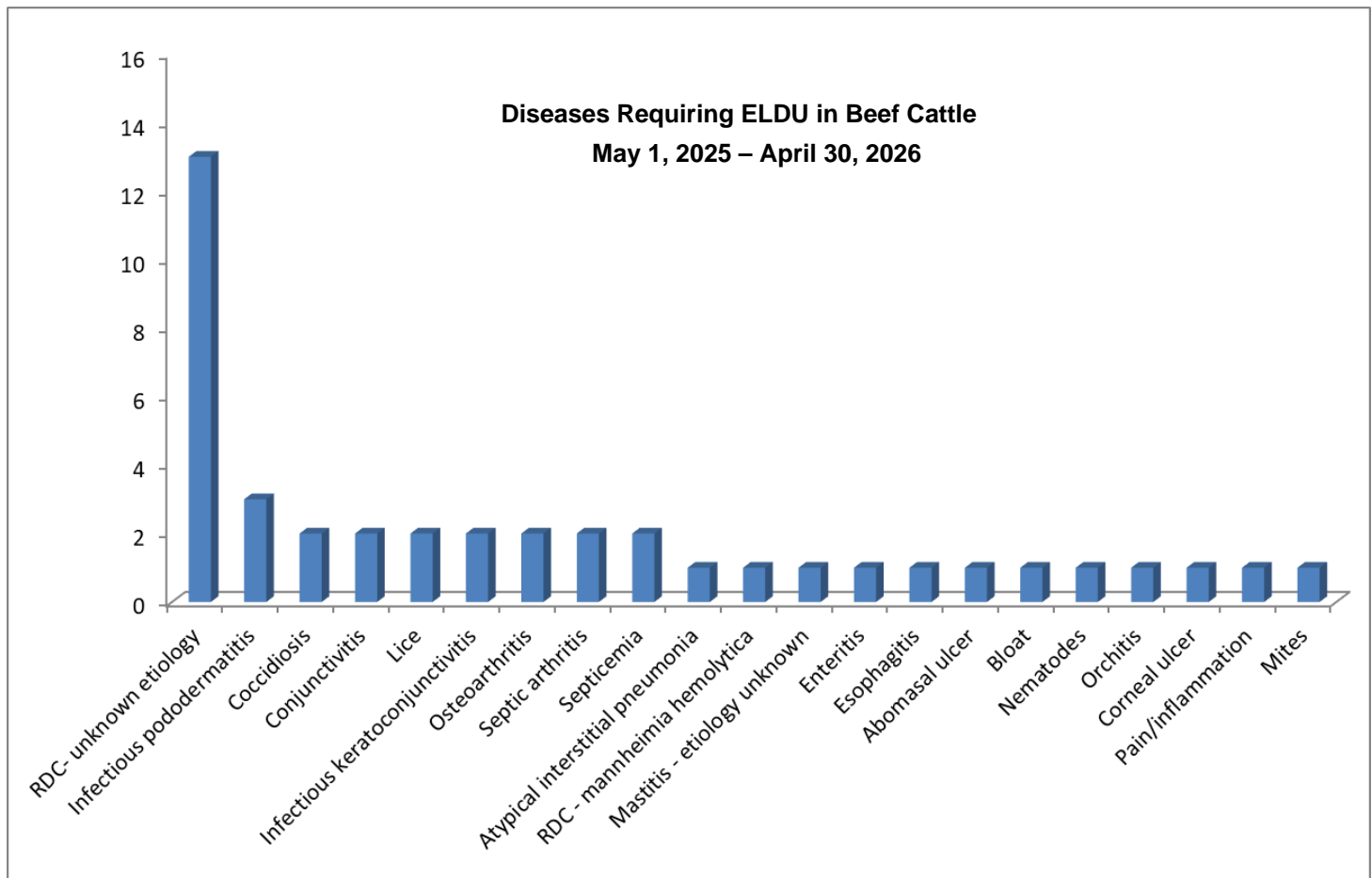
Feed mill errors and accidental exposures are always given emergency priority for dairy cattle. For these situations, CgFARAD™ personnel provide information on drug residue testing in milk and laboratories with the capability of rapid testing to get the impacted producer back online as fast as possible.



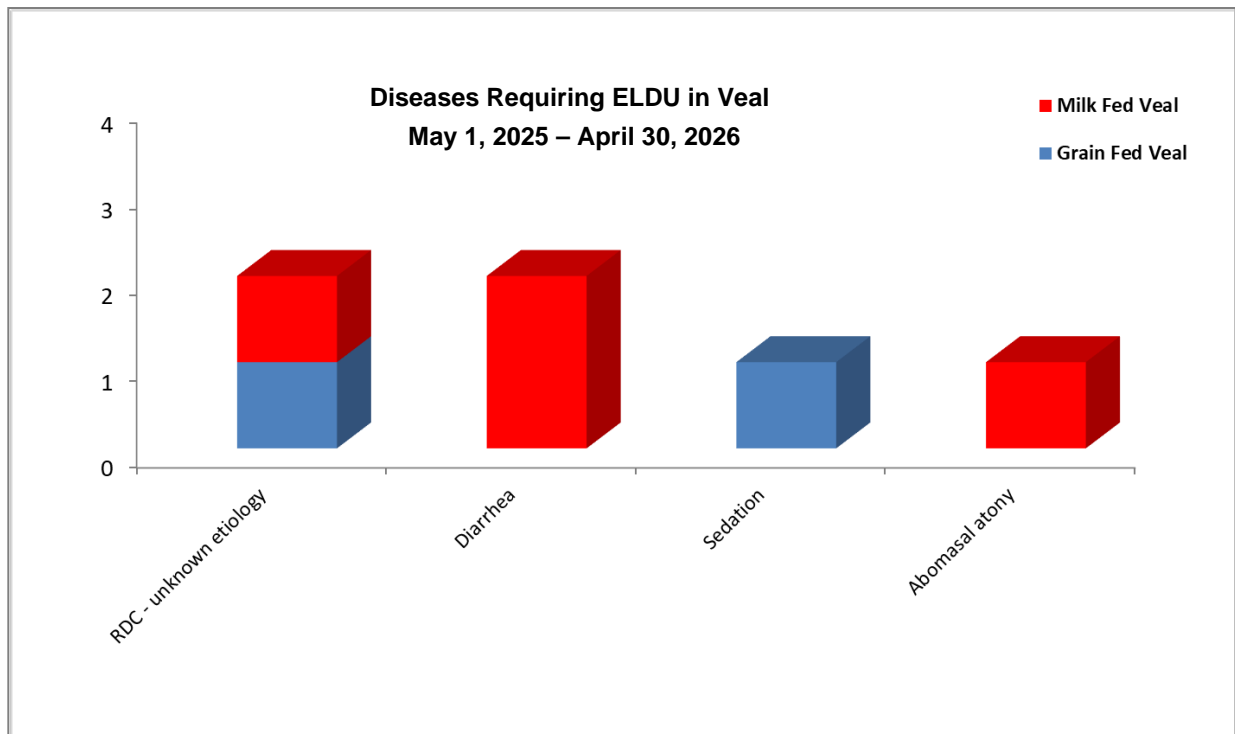
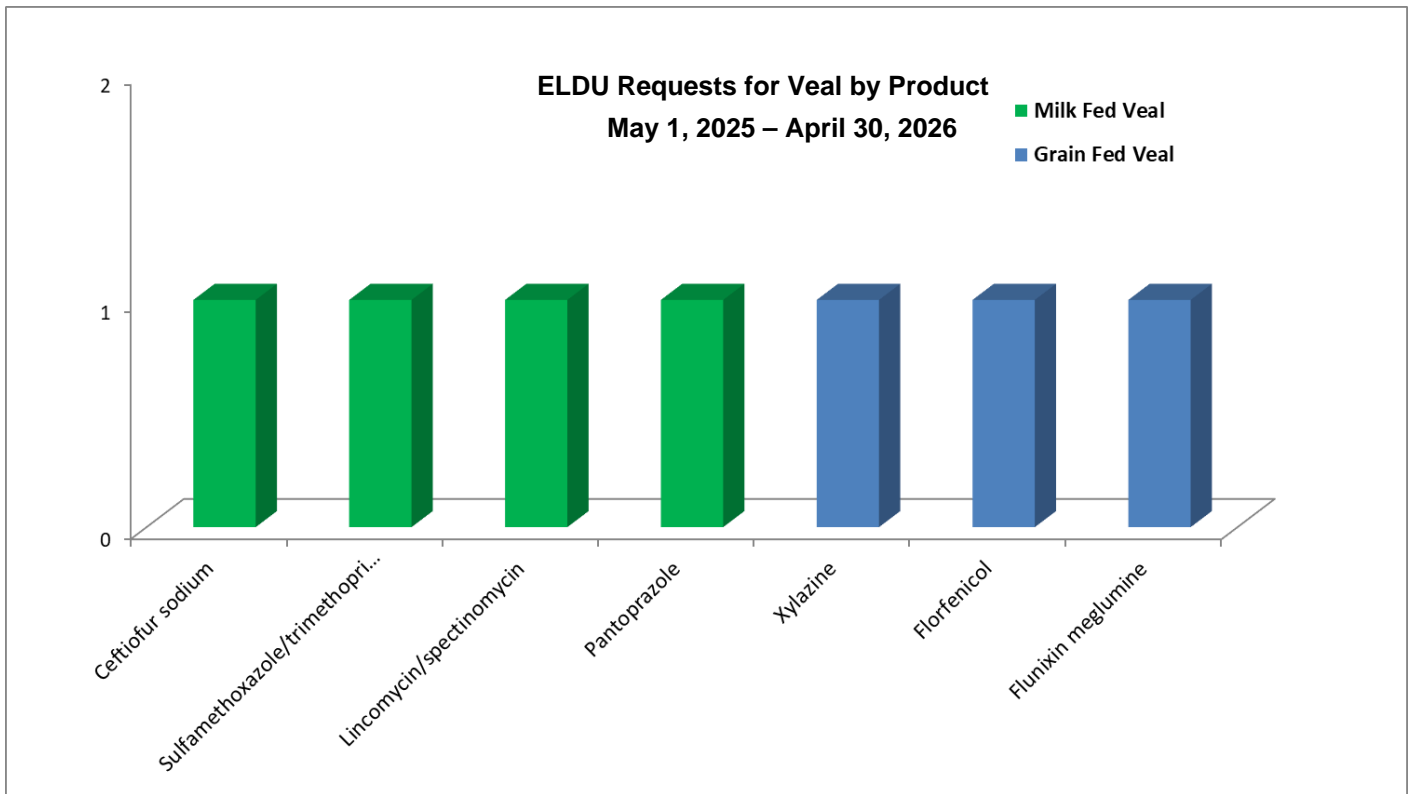


Requests for withdrawal information for ELDU in beef cattle are traditionally low. Cow/calf operations have animals that are far from the time of slaughter and feedlot operations typically do not use drugs in an ELDU manner.

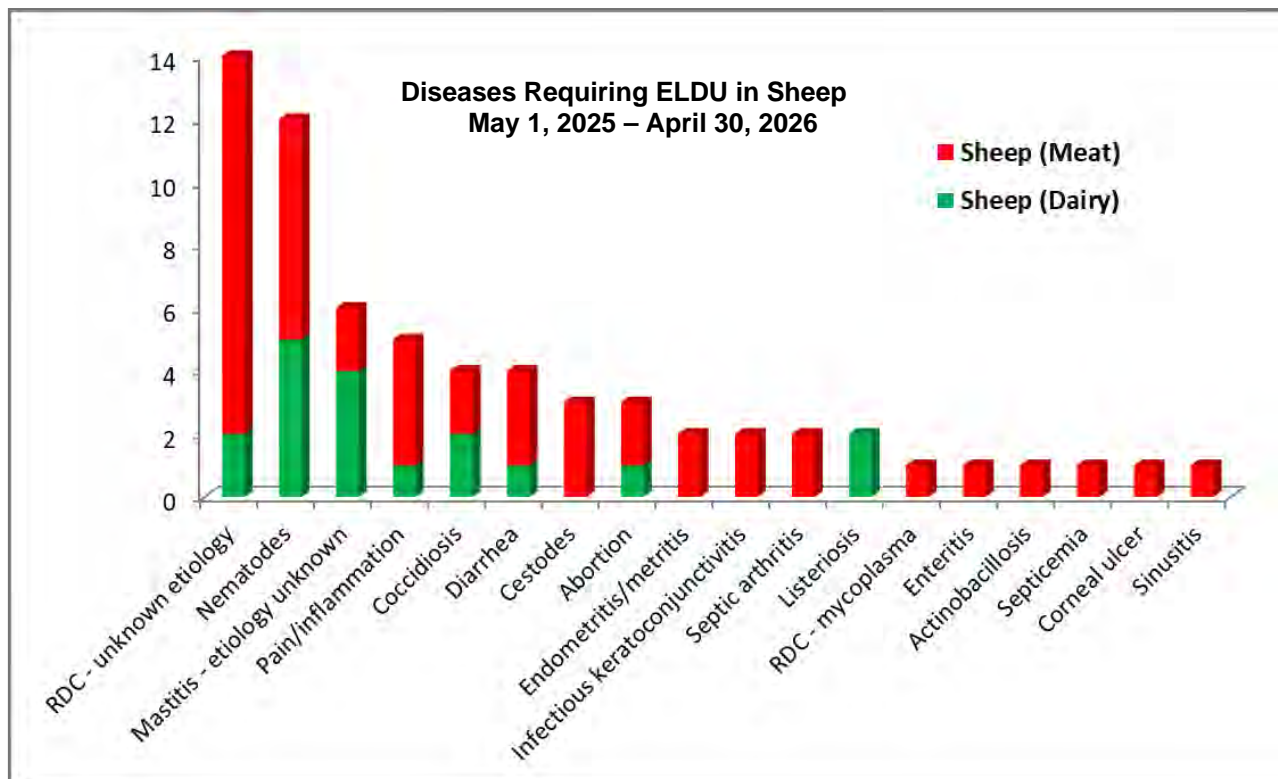
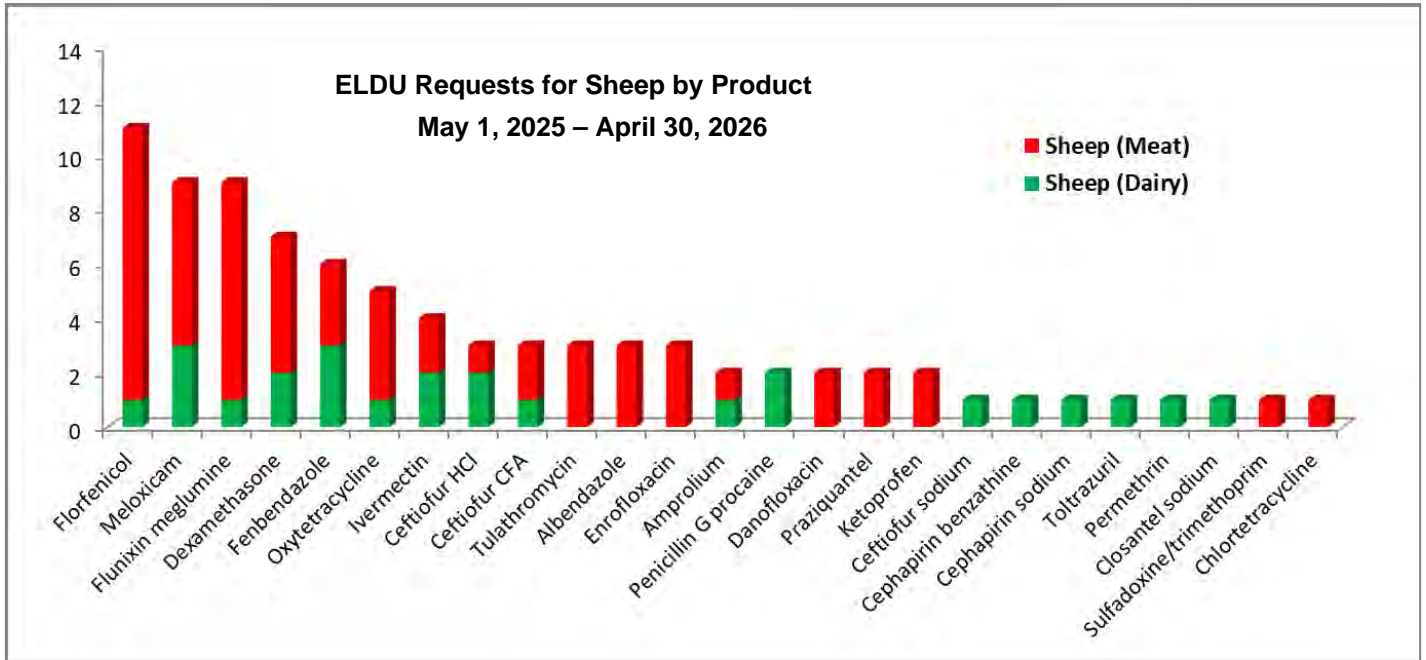


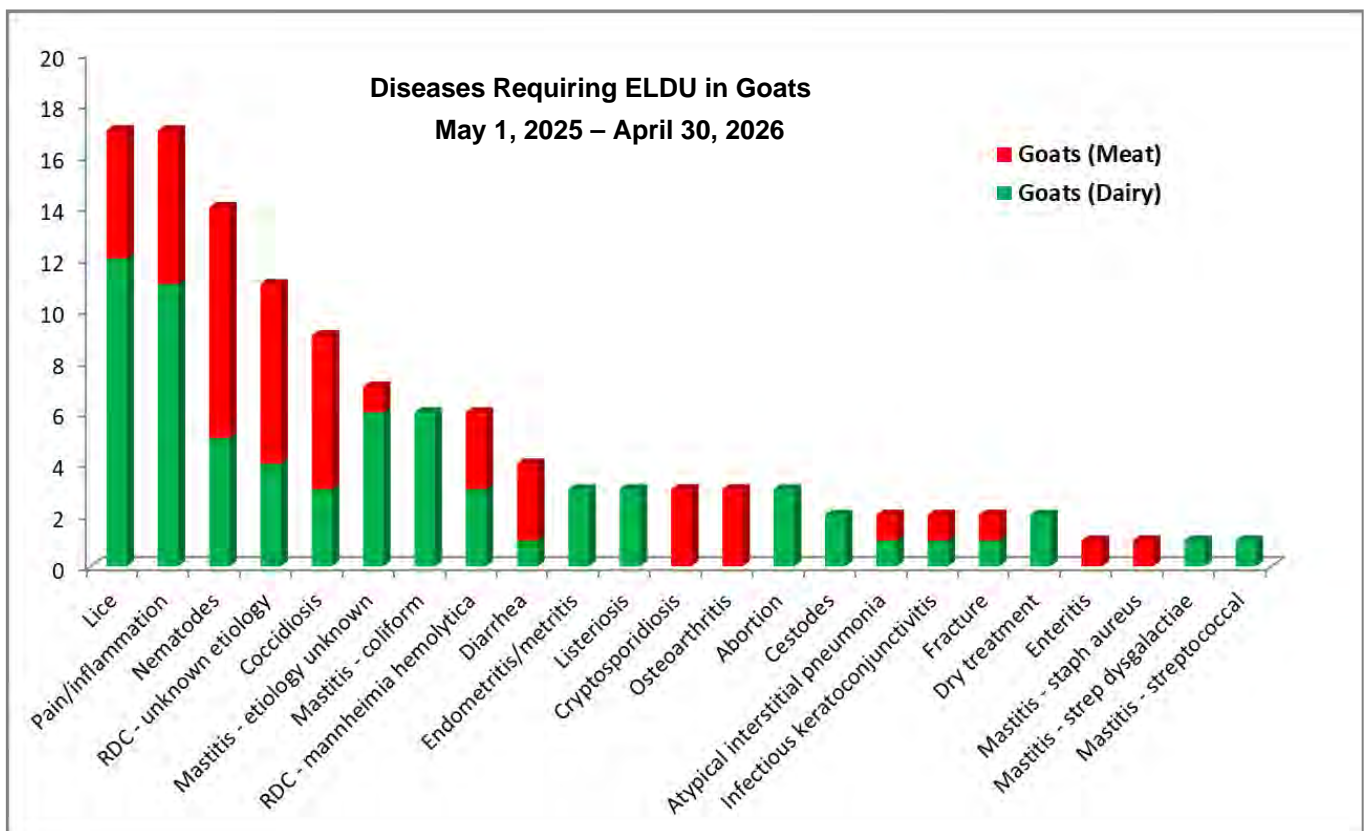
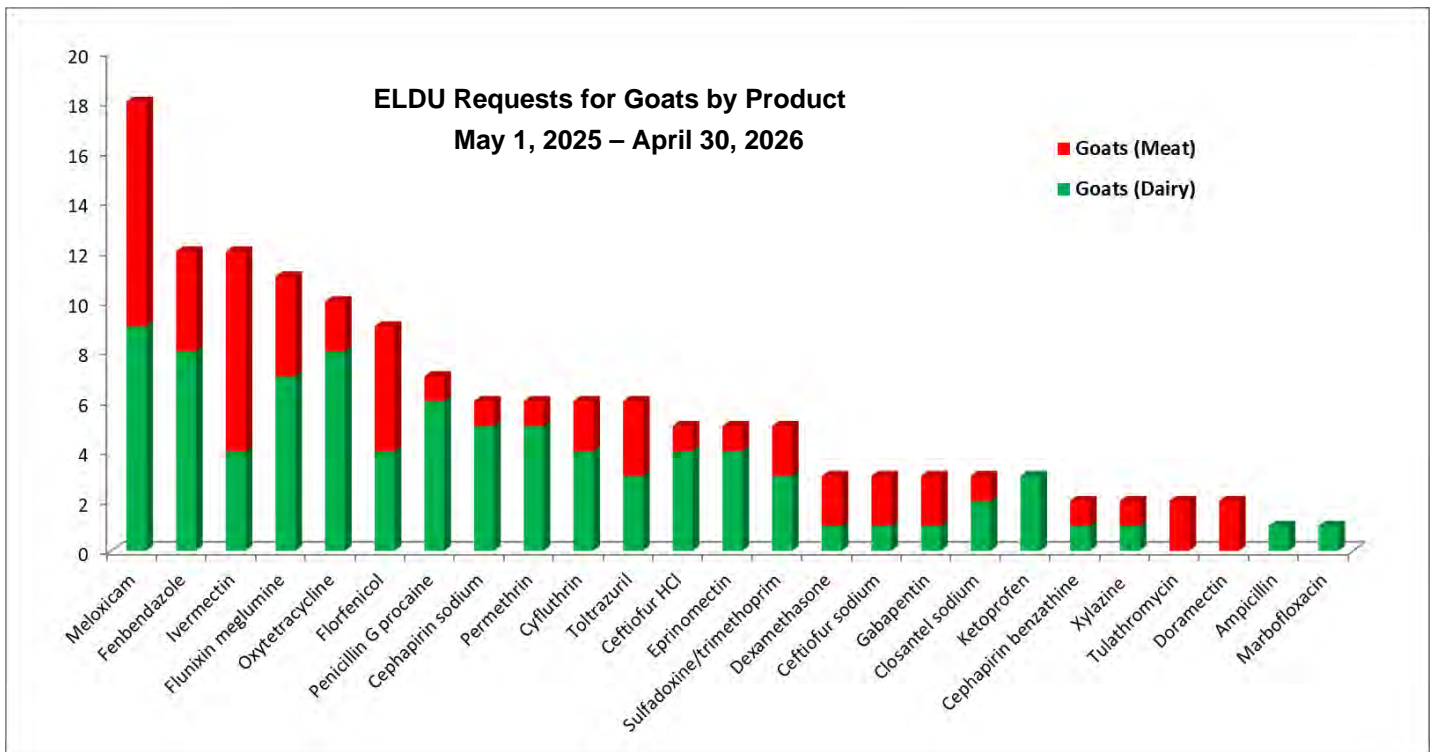


ELDU in the veal sector focuses on the treatment of infectious diseases. The Veterinary Drugs Directorate and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have set guidelines for the MRLs applied to veal. Category I drugs and hormones are enforced to the limits of detection of the CFIA assays and require greatly 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.



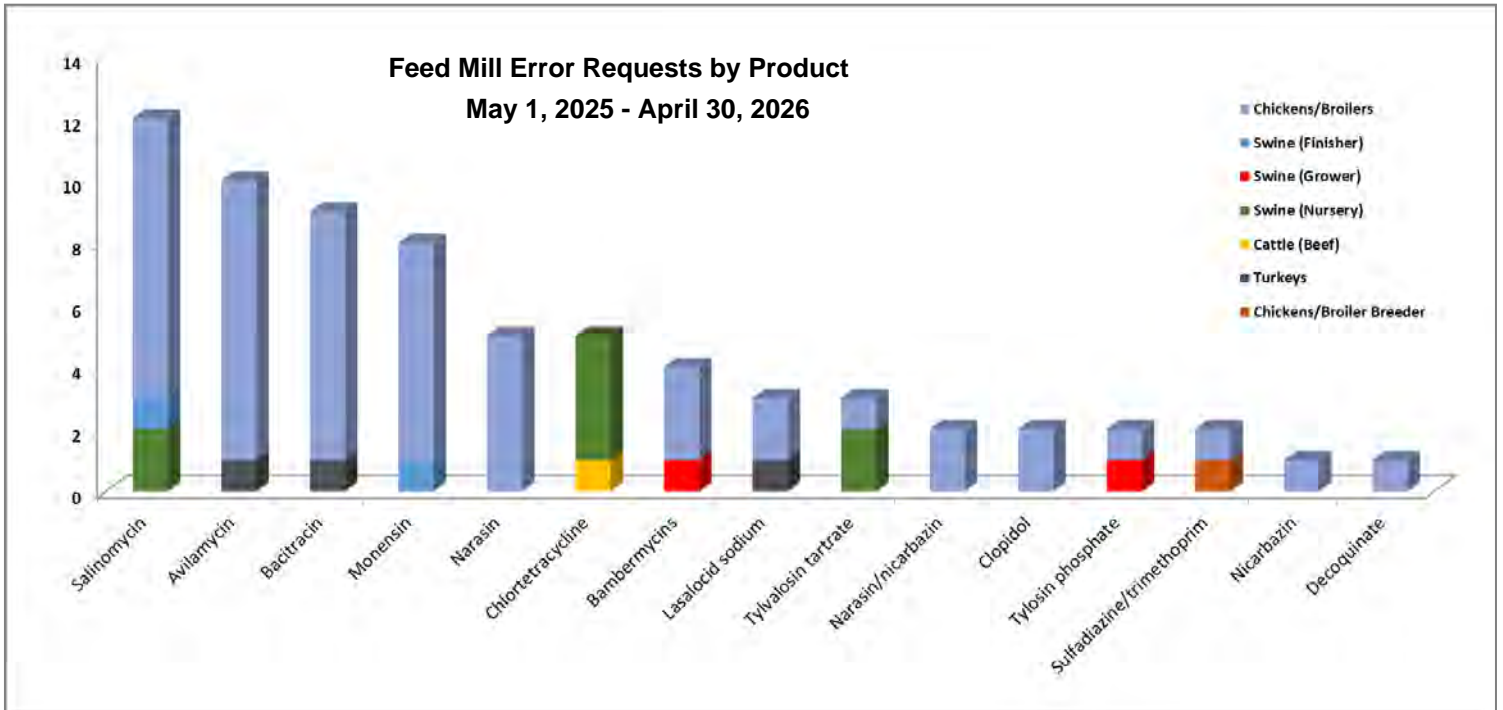
Due to limited drug approvals and bacterial and parasite resistance, antimicrobials, coccidiostats and dewormers are the most commonly used products for ELDU in sheep and goats. Even if parasite resistance is not present, residues in milk of lactating sheep and goats can be very problematic due to persistence 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.





Since 2017, the CgFARAD™ has been tracking requests for “feed mill errors”. These requests represent 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 2025-2026, the CgFARAD™ received 69 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. Unfortunately, in some instances we have to recommend testing products from exposed animals to ensure human food safety or disposal of the feed.



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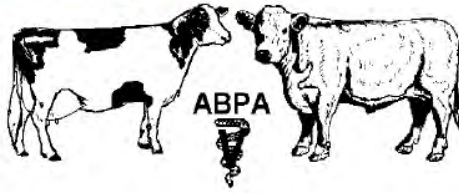
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