Good Production Practices: Reading and Understanding a Medication Label

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Purpose: To teach youth how to read a medication label so they are better able to understand how to store and administer medications to different livestock species.*

Materials Needed
- One copy of the worksheet for each youth or small group of youth.
- One copy of the Micotil label per 1-2 youth.

Steps
1. Have youth complete the activity worksheet individually or in small groups using the Micotil label provided.

Remembering What Is Important
Labels on medications are crucial for making sure that medications are properly stored to guarantee maximum effectiveness and for ensuring that they are given in the proper locations and amounts in order to effectively help the animal. In addition, labels help to ensure that medications are not given to a species they are not approved for.

Go through some of the questions with the youth, asking thought-provoking follow-up questions to help them understand why following label instructions is so important. Questions might include the following:

- What might happen if you give your animal too much medication? Not enough?
- What could happen if the medication is stored at a temperature that is too high?
- What could occur if the withdrawal time listed on the label is not followed?
- What might happen if you administer the medication to a species it is not approved for?
- What could happen if you administer the medication in a location not listed on the label?

*This activity has been developed to supplement the information that can be found in the National Pork Board Good Production Practice No. 6: Properly store, label, and account for all drugs and medicated feeds.
Reading and Understanding a Medication Label
Using the medication label and insert below, answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of this medication? ________________________________
2. What is the slaughter withdrawal time on this medication? _________________
3. What animals can this medication be used on? __________________________
4. What occurs if this medication is given to swine? ________________________
5. What is the recommended dosage for a 500-pound steer? _________________
6. How should this medication be stored? _________________________________
7. How should this medication be given? _________________________________
8. Can an automatically powered syringe be used to administer this medication? _________________

Dosage Calculation
Using the medication label and insert below, determine the dose that should be given to a 150-pound ewe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal weight (lbs)</th>
<th>300</th>
<th>400</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>600</th>
<th>700</th>
<th>800</th>
<th>900</th>
<th>1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micotil dosage</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>13.50</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micotil dosage per 100 lbs</td>
<td>1.5 mL</td>
<td>2 mL</td>
<td>2.5 mL</td>
<td>3 mL</td>
<td>3.75 mL</td>
<td>4.5 mL</td>
<td>5 mL</td>
<td>6 mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer Key to Questions
1. Micotil 300 Injection or Micotil
2. 42 days until slaughter
3. Cattle and sheep; not for use in swine
4. Injection of this antibiotic in swine may cause human consumption of milk and milk products for and apply to contact Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC) at 1-800-428-4441 (select product support)
5. 7.5-15 mL
6. Below 66 degrees Fahrenheit; avoid direct sunlight
7. Subcutaneously
8. No