

*New Regime:  
Veterinary Antimicrobials  
Dec. 01, 2018*

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# Background

- Oxytetracycline hydrochloride ~*Oxytet*, *Terramycin*
- Introduced mid-1950s
- Over The Counter – OTC
- Standard Application in winter feed & spring
- 1997: First diagnosis of r-AFB in Fraser Valley
  - => No More Prophylaxis!
- Alberta beekeepers early 2000s; Oxytet less effective.

# Background

- AB beekeepers' alternative: Tylosin tartrate, *Tylan*
  - Initially off-label - VCPR
  - Registration later in 2013.
- Note:
  - Sulfathiazole (“Sulfa”) never registered in Canada.
  - Lyncomycin registered in US but NOT in Canada.
  - Chloramphenicol, illegal residue imported honeys.
- => Increasing use of drugs important in human health
- 2013: Health Canada; develop policy plan to reduce antibiotics in livestock production systems.

# The Problem of Over Use

- Over 80% of annual consumption of antibiotics in North America – livestock production systems.
- Almost all for non-medical purposes:
  - Prophylaxis (~cheap, convenient “insurance”)
  - Growth stimulant (~rapid weight gain)
- Increase of MRSA (~superbugs), incurable TB strains, resistant pneumonia.
- => Reduce use to protect human medicine & health

# New Federal Conditions

1. Remove availability of all “Medically Important Antimicrobials” – MIAs from OTC sales.
2. Permit availability only through veterinarian prescription.
3. Limit the sale of antimicrobials to veterinarians and pharmacists. (*What about Internet sales?*)

# New Regime of Antimicrobials

- College of Veterinarians of BC – CVBC
  - Licensing body of Veterinarians
  - Administers Standards of Practice
- Issuance of drug prescription based on VCPR (*“Veterinarian–Client–Patient–Relationship”*).
- Key components:
  - Familiarity of operation. (Size, locations, etc. Vet visit not mandatory)
  - History of health, management practices
  - Diagnostic and treatment decisions

# Implementation Strategies

1. Establish relationship with local veterinarian(s)
  - Individually or as a group through local club
  - Encourage Vet to become a beekeeper / member
  - Vet training course on bee management & diseases
2. Contact Apiary Inspector for inspection.
  - Field confirmation of AFB/EFB, record affected colonies/apiary.
  - Submit sample for laboratory confirmation
  - => AGRI issues prescription. Drugs sold thr. pharmacies.
  - *NOTE: AGRI prescription only to registered beekeepers.*

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