

## Drug Usage on Dairy Farms

No prescription veterinary drug or medication will be used unless a valid Veterinary/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) exists. This is defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association as follows:

**“An appropriate veterinarian/client/patient relationship will exist when (1) the veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animals and the need for medical treatment, and the client (owner or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian; and when (2) there is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept; and when (3) the practicing veterinarian is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage or follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.”**

The key points here are:

We assume responsibility for the health and treatment of the dairy animals.

1. The client has agreed to follow directions.
2. We agree to be available to examine, diagnose, and prescribe treatment and to provide follow up or emergency service if needed.

It is necessary that complete and accurate records be kept on all treatments given to food producing animals. We require all clients to maintain these records in order to continue a VCPR. We agree to make notations on them as we complete treatments and provide treatment protocols for **“on label”** usage.

It is reasonable to assume that at least two farm visits by the DVM with general knowledge of the livestock operation should occur per year in order for a VCPR to exist.

It is mandatory that all treated animals have permanent identifications. This would be ear tag, tattoo or freeze brand. Names or neck tags are not sufficient.