Experiences of NYS Dairy Farms with VFD Implementation:

Perspectives from Farmers and Industry Professionals

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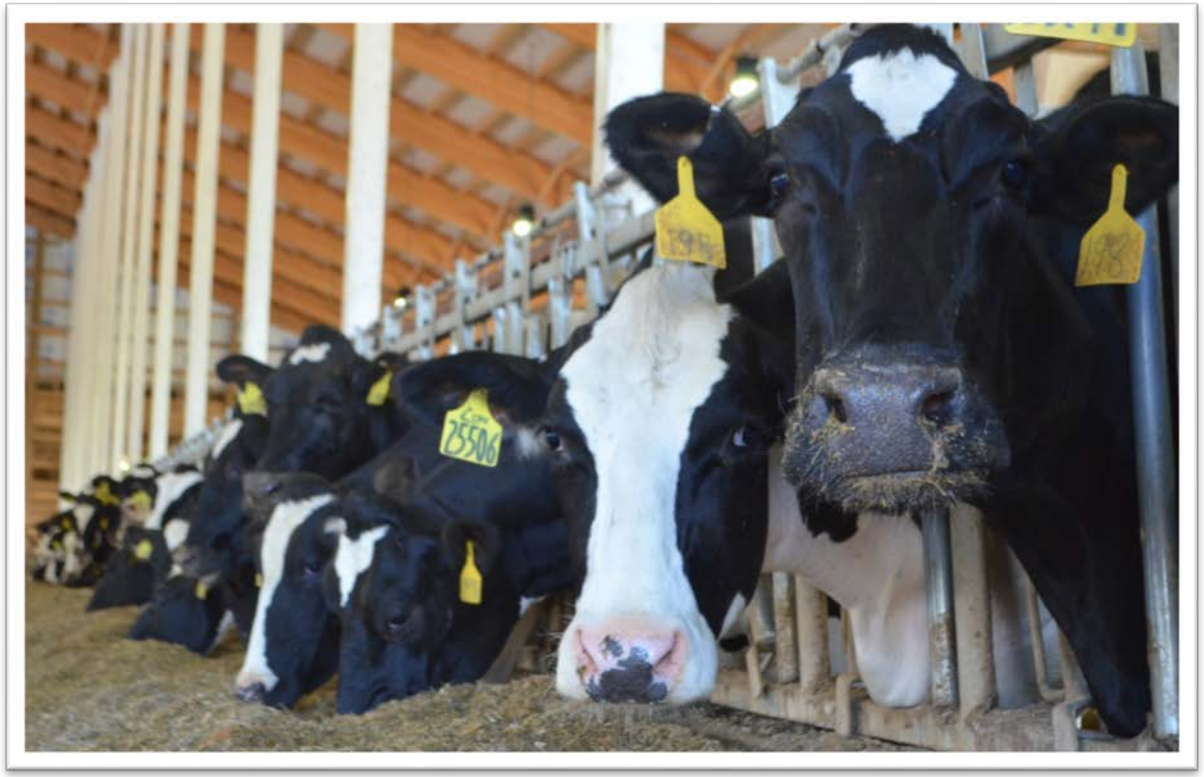
Overview

1. Case studies conducted
2. Overview of findings
    1. Potential cost concerns
    2. Increased time on paperwork
    3. Additional vet fees
    4. Availability of medication
3. Potential financial impacts
4. Conclusion

Case studies



- NYS dairy farms
- Organic*, conventional, different sizes
- Conducted in January 2017 and January 2018
- Overall, relatively consistent responses
- Some variation in experience based on size and location of the farm
- Conducted by: Jennifer Ifft PhD, Rob Lynch DVM, and Kelsey O'Shea

*Organic farm case study collected as a baseline, as they are not eligible to utilize in feed antibiotics.

Overview of findings: potential cost concerns

- Given the limitation put on in feed antibiotics, most farms cited that their next strategy to mitigate illness was:
  - Newer or upgrading facilities at a considerable cost
  - Increased labor
  - Other medications
  - Updated protocols

Overview of findings: increased paperwork

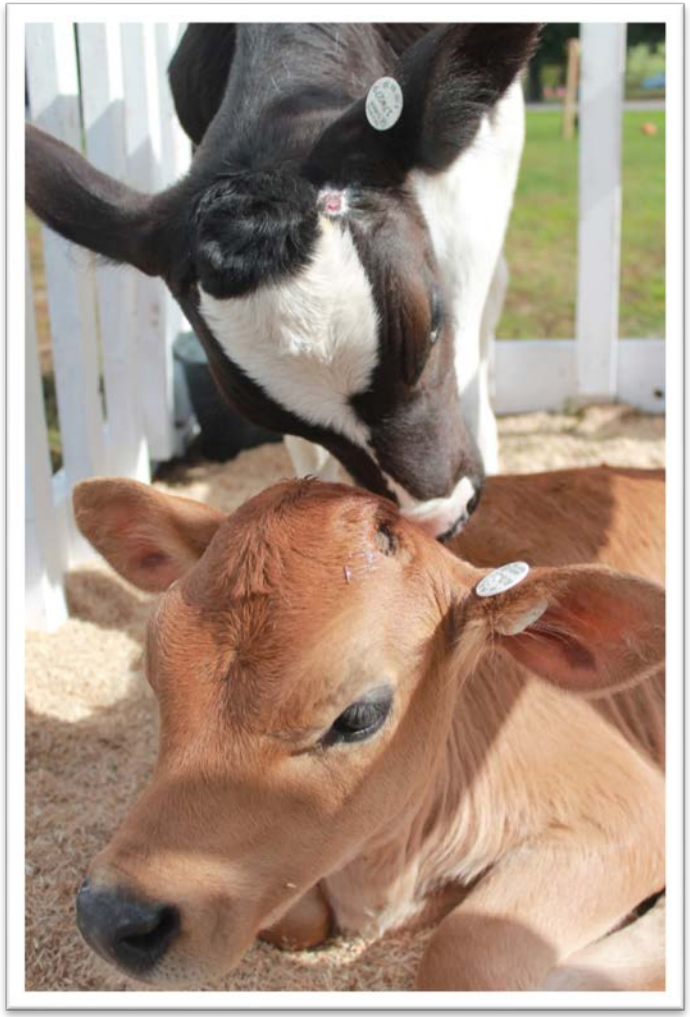
- Most farms indicted that:
  - To be compliant, they had to increase the amount of time they spent on paperwork for protocols
  - They were also paying their vet more to complete some of the required paperwork

Overview of findings: additional vet fees

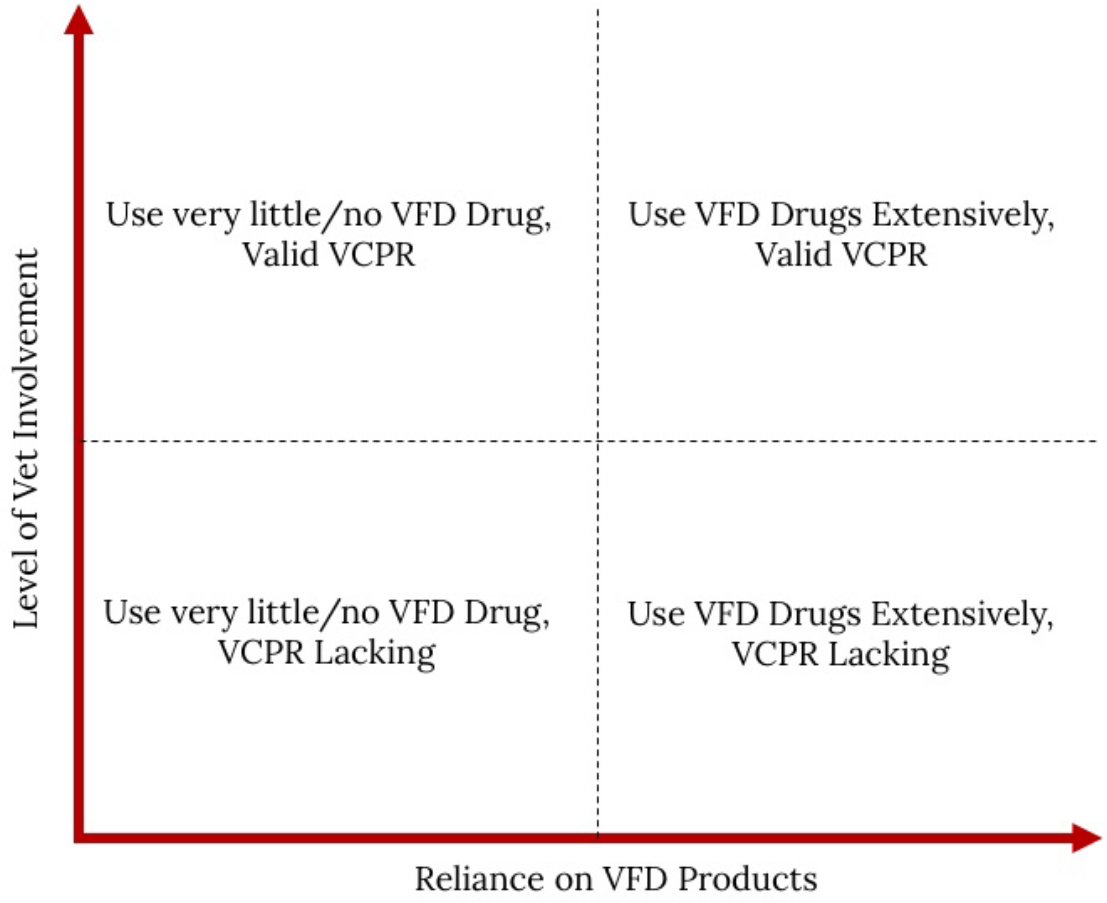
- Due to the increases in paperwork required by both the VFD and VCPR most farms indicated:
  - Vets were spending more time at the farm exploring other management/treatment options
  - Vets were completing or aiding in new protocols to eliminate the usage of in feed antibiotics
  - Concern regarding the increase in insurance cost for vets to back VCPR's and be liable for the repercussions of in feed antibiotics prescribed

Overview of findings: availability of antibiotics

- This issue was described primarily by larger dairy operations (i.e. those over 1,000 lactating and dry animals):
  - When in feed antibiotics were needed, most feed mills were carrying such a reduced supply that they had to wait a significant amount of time for delivery
  - Per discussions with the feed mills, they cannot justify carrying the inventory given its shelf life
  - Feed mills also described some uncertainty and concerns over keeping and maintaining the proper paperwork per the VFD for the sale of in feed antibiotic products



Potential financial impacts



Potential financial impacts

- Example: >15% clinical presentation of respiratory, then what?
- Usually would treat whole pen with (assume 100 heifers) with in feed antibiotics
- Assumed cost variation between in feed- $290 and single dose injection $285
  - Roughly similar costs with potentially similar results if no additional infections

	Medication Cost	Labor Cost	Total
In Feed	$2.75 x 100 head = $275	1 hour x $15/hour	$290
Single Dose Injection	$18 x 15 head = $270	1 hour x $15/hour	$285

Potential Financial Impacts

- Assume a 7 day or 14-21 day delay in being able to get the in feed treatment, in its absence injections are used to treat the additional clinically ill animals
- 7 day delay = additional 15% ill with total of $585 spent
- 14-21 day delay= additional 30% ill with total of $1185 spent

	Medication Cost	Labor Cost	Total
7 day delay	$18 x additional 15 head	2 hours x $15/hour = $30	$300
14-21 day delay	$18 x additional 30 head	4 hours x $15/hour s= $60	$600

Potential Financial Impacts

- Non-quantifiable impacts
  - Future performance impact (both respiratory and milk production)
  - Future income losses and additional expenses
  - Waiting until clinically presenting as ill may exacerbate or amplify this
  - Overall time spent re-evaluating management options or planning new protocols

Conclusions

- Overall, the VFD rules have encouraged closer relationships with veterinarians
- A shift from treatment to preventative medicine
- Overall more capital investment in facilities design and management than in treatments
- Reactive → Proactive
- Total cost difference can't be known with certainty
- Ultimately a shift in the right direction for animal health