

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Veterinary Medicine Extension  
School of Veterinary Medicine

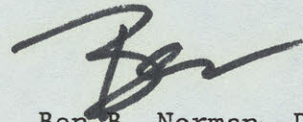
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May 14, 1990

Livestock Farm Advisors  
County Offices

RE: Enclosed information

For your information the attached is a draft of what will appear soon in Cal-Vet or as a separate insert in the CVMA newsletter. It deals with AB 489 and may be of some interest to producers and veterinarians in your county.



Ben B. Norman, DVM, Ph.D  
Extension Veterinarian

Attachment

Put in next  
newsletter

6/27/90

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## Selling an Animal with Residues Just

Ben B. Norman, DVM

Extension Veterinarian

The California Food and Drug Code's Section 4 on Livestock Drugs\* has several new changes this year dealing with animal residues and drug sales. It provides for escalating administrative fines, triple civil damages, attorney fees, mandatory identification of bob veal calves and cull dairy cows going to slaughter, and increased drug registration fees.

Administrative fine citations can be written like traffic tickets and no longer require the involvement of the county prosecutor. The first offense is \$100/animal and subsequent offenses are \$250/animal. This change makes it very easy for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to issue fines to people which sell residue-contaminated livestock to USDA/FSIS inspected slaughter houses.

Triple civil damages can be collected by the slaughter house from people selling livestock with residues detected by the FSIS. If a dairy sells a residue contaminated cow to a slaughter house, the packer can claim three times the sales price, plus attorney fees. The same applies for any other food animal.

Bob veal calf is defined as a bovine animal 21 days of age or less or weighing 150 lbs. or less or as defined by USDA/FSIS. A cull dairy cow is defined as any female bovine animal over 21 days of age which is sent to slaughter. Both of these groups must have positive identification at slaughter. (The type of ID may eventually be specified by CDFA.)

\*A.B. 489 (amended by AB3099) by Assembly Member Norman Waters.

Selling an Animal with Residues Just Got More Expensive...

Ben B. Norman, DVM

Extension Veterinarian

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Livestock drugs require a \$180 license every two years before they can be sold in California. Some low sales products may not have their licenses renewed because of poor economics. Some of the drugs you use infrequently may disappear from the marketplace.

The USDA/FSIS is particularly concerned with bob veal calves and cull dairy cows since they account for over 90% of the residue problems in California. The CDFA now has the legal tools needed to easily fine those people selling residue-contaminated livestock.

The Western Meat Packers Association is busy teaching their slaughterhouses how to collect the triple damages and attorney fees from sellers of residue livestock. The law applies to owners and agents (commission buyers, auction yards, etc.).

Food animal veterinarians may want to warn their clients about these new changes. The need to avoid residues in our food supply is an important part of the appropriate use of veterinary drugs. The veterinarian is on the front line. It is now easy for the violation of residue avoidance procedures to become very expensive. This law now has some "teeth", so caution your clients not to be "bitten". A copy of "Livestock Drug Laws" can be obtained from: Livestock Section, Feeds & Fertilizer Division, CDFA, 1220 N. Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.