



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRICULTURE**

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**FEED INDUSTRY MEMORANDUM NO. 4-1**

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VETERINARIAN PRACTICE AND THE COMMERCIAL FEED MANUFACTURER**

**OBJECTIVE:**

This policy, based on the Federal Food and Drug Administration direction provides guidance to regulating the veterinarian-patient relationship when a mixture is to be formulated by a third party.

**POLICY:**

A veterinarian may not prescribe unapproved drugs used in feed. Any veterinarian prescription of medicated feed articles or medicated feeds must conform with state and federal regulations including Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Volume 6, Part 558, Section 558.6 Veterinary Feed Directive; Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Volume 6, Part 530 Extra Label Drug Use in Animals; and Public Law 108-282, August 2, 2004, Title 1 Minor Use Minor Species Health. Once a veterinarian enlists the services of a feed mill to blend drugs into feed, he/she not only introduces a third party to the doctor-patient relationship which goes beyond the 'practice' of a veterinary medicine, but the doctor-patient-feed mill relationship becomes a commercial feed operation and all parties become subject to any and all applicable sections of the Food & Drug Act. Feed mills are responsible for verifying that medicated feeds to be mixed are prior sanctioned or, in the case of new animal drugs, that the mill holds the required approvals, and the labels for the feeds are correct in every particular. Mills should refuse to mix feeds from components with unidentified materials to avoid producing feeds that are in violation of the law.

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