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## Antibiotic Residues in Milk

When antibiotics are detected in milk that is delivered to the factory, it is worth discussing this issue with one of our veterinarians. Sometimes the cause is obvious – someone has made an error and/or normal procedures were not followed.

For the last several years when bobby calves have tested positive for antibiotics it has been mandatory for the vet that has dispensed the antibiotic to thoroughly investigate the case. We have been able to determine what went wrong and help people put in place protocols that minimise the chance of an antibiotic residue occurring again.

This system has been very successful in reducing the number of antibiotic residues in bobby calves.

It is not mandatory for the dispensing vet to be involved in antibiotic violations involving milk. Processors tell us that they encourage suppliers to contact their vet, but it seems that this only happens some of the time.

A common cause of antibiotic residues in milk is when cows calve earlier than expected. This can be due to natural variation, twins, misleading preg test results or poor joining records.

When cows calve earlier than expected it is important to keep cows out of the vat for the prescribed time. For Cepravin DC the minimum dry period is 49 days and then cows must be kept out of the vat for 4 days after they calve. This means that the total period that needs to elapse after Cepravin DC is used is  $49 + 4 = 53$  days.

For Juraclox DC the minimum dry period is 35 days so the total period out of the vat is  $35 + 4 = 39$  days.

Because Cepravin DC has a longer minimum dry period it is essential that you have accurate calving dates if you plan to use this product.

The best way to get accurate calving dates is to preg test cows with an ultrasound when they are less than 16 weeks pregnant.

There have been occasions when there has been no obvious reason for the antibiotic violation. We are particularly keen to investigate these cases.