

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

for

Poultry Medicated Feed Withdrawal



Consumer confidence is critical to the ongoing strength and growth of the poultry industry in Canada. Avoiding unwanted drug residues is essential to maintain consumer confidence. Following the proper procedures for the withdrawal of medicated feed is an important step to guarantee residue-free products and to meet HACCP based on-farm food safety programs. The practices outlined in this publication are designed to help producers effectively meet medicated feed withdrawal requirements.

Feeder Management

Create an end point for withdrawal-required feed by:

- **Turning off main cross auger**
When: After the last few kilograms of medicated feed has entered the barn.
Why: To facilitate consumption of all withdrawal-required feed in the feed lines.
- **Inspecting the feed hoppers to each feed line** (including suspended hoppers).
When: Changing to no-withdrawal feed
Why: To ensure that withdrawal-required feed is not present during the withdrawal period.
- **Periodically shut off feed lines**
When: At the time of feed change (ie. starter, grower, and finisher stages of production).
Why: To allow birds to clean up feed from earlier loads which may have been medicated.

It is imperative that birds are **not** out of feed for an extended period, as this may precipitate crowding at the feed lines resulting in skin scratching and cellulitis.

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Feed Bin Management

Eliminate carry-over by:

- **Providing separate feed bins for withdrawal-required feed** (medicated feed requiring a withdrawal time prior to marketing) **and no-withdrawal feed** (non-medicated feed, medicated feeds with no withdrawal time)
- **Rotating feed bins with each feed delivery to facilitate compliance with feeding program**
- **Dislodging bridged feed and/or dust prior to feed delivery** (strike outside of bin with rubber mallet or similar object)

Extra attention should be paid to feed bin management in cold weather as warm feed tends to lodge.

1. Eliminate Carry-Over

- Practice bin rotation
- Dislodge bridged feed in bins

2. Create Definite End-Point

- Allow feed lines to empty out
- Inspect hoppers for bridging

3. Periodically Allow Birds to Clean up Feed Fines