

# COW/CALF CORNER

## The Newsletter

From the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

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Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist and Clyde Lane, Beef Specialist, University of Tennessee

## **Withdrawal Times Are Critical**

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist and The Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance Manual

Summer often brings a couple cattle health issues that must be treated for the well-being of the animal. [Foot rot](#) and [pinkeye](#) are both infections that often are responsive to antibiotic therapy. Veterinarians may suggest or prescribe antibiotics to treat these infected animals. Producers should closely follow the veterinarian's directions, and also read the label of the product used. Most of these medications will require that the producer keep the treated animal for the label-directed withdrawal time. The Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance Manual contains the following discussion of medication withdrawal times.

“A withdrawal time may be indicated on the label of certain medications. This is the period of time that must pass between the last treatment and the time the animal will be slaughtered or milk used for human consumption. For example, if a medication with a 14-day withdrawal period was last given on August 1, the withdrawal would be completed on August 15 and that would be the earliest the animal could be harvested for human consumption. All federally approved drugs will include the required withdrawal time for that drug on the product label or package insert. These withdrawal times can range from zero to as many as 60 days or more. It is the producer's responsibility to be aware of withdrawal times of any drugs used in their operation. Unacceptable levels of drug residues detected in edible tissues collected at harvest may result in traceback, quarantine, and potential fines or jail time. Substantial economic losses may result for the individual producer as well as negative publicity for the entire beef industry. Producers are responsible for residue problems and should follow these three rules:

1. Do not market animals for food until the withdrawal time listed on the label or as prescribed by the veterinarian has elapsed.
2. Use only medications approved for cattle and exactly as the label directs or as prescribed by your veterinarian.
3. If ever in doubt, rely on the veterinarian-client-patient relationship you have established with your veterinarian.

Consult your veterinarian with all questions and concerns.” (Source: [The Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance Manual](#))

## Storing Large Round Bales

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist and Clyde Lane, Beef Specialist, University of Tennessee

University of Tennessee animal scientists conducted a trial to compare different methods of storing large round bales of grass hay. The hay was cut and baled in June in Moore County, Tennessee. The bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. Then they were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following table lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss.

Table 1. Losses of Hay Stored using Six Methods of Storage

Type of Storage	Percentage (%) Hay Loss
On ground, no cover	37%
On tires, no cover	29%
On ground, covered	29%
On tires, covered	8%
Net wrap on ground	19%
In barn	6%

Obviously, it would be ideal to store the hay inside, but that will not often be practical. The next best option is when the hay is stored on something that gets the hay off of the ground under a rain shedding cover. Different areas of the country may have different results due to variation in rain and snow fall. (Source: Dr. Clyde Lane, University of Tennessee Department of Animal Science).

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