



Tip

Tuesday!

Part 2: FARM Program 4.0 – Determining Chores

Using the protocols and chores feature in PCDART helps producers and veterinarians keep track of herd health care treatments and may help a herd track items required to comply with FARM 4.0 requirements. As you begin this process, you may want to discuss the protocol with your veterinarian and staff to determine which chores need to be completed and when they need to be done during the protocol to meet the guidelines of FARM 4.0.

Developing protocols to ensure healthy animals will ultimately guarantee a healthy product. A protocol provides instructions which enable dairy staff to consistently and thoroughly complete the chores. When the timing and applications are consistent from cow to cow, you can better monitor and evaluate the process and results.

When developing protocols, put together a team of people who have a role on the dairy such as the manager, owner, workers, veterinarian, and other personnel who can help determine the best practices and approach.

Keep in mind the forms and agreements which are part of FARM Version 4.0. The Veterinarian-Client/Patient-Relationship (VCPR) form, dairy cattle care ethics and training agreements as well as other info about enrolling in the program can be found at nationaldairyfarm.com.

The next issue of Tip Tuesday will discuss step 4: Creating the Chores. Before then, the protocol team should be established and complete steps 1, 2 and 3 (see box).

Steps in developing a protocol

1. Determine what event or health condition requires a series of tasks.
2. Establish the tasks or chores that will be included in the protocol.
3. Write out the order and when those chores will need to be completed.
4. Create the chores and record the appropriate label usage and withdrawal times for both meat and milk.
5. Record the protocol using the created chores and the specific time for each chore.

Example of Protocols and Chores

- **Event** (Step 1): New calf
- **Chores to be done** (Step 2) **and order** (Step 3):
 - a) Clear Mucus from Nostrils (so Calf can breathe)
 - b) Dip Navel with a Disinfectant (usually Iodine)
 - c) Appropriately feed required amount of Colostrum
 - d) Provide Calf with clean housing
 - e) Note Event Date, Dam ID, assign Calf ID (if necessary) and record data in PCDART
- **Label usage and withdrawal times** (Step 4): Newborn Calf, 0
Note: When a Chore is created in PCDART, Withhold Times (in days) for Milk and Meat must be recorded or the Chore cannot be created; zero days can be entered for Chores such as Iodine Navel Dipping, Feeding Colostrum, Hoof Trimming, etc. For Veterinary drugs, such as antibiotics, manufacturers provide this information on the Label; work with your Veterinarian.
- **Time of Chore** (Step 5): At birth
Note: Mastitis Treatment Protocol, where Mastitis treatment drugs can be recorded in PCDART as Chores to be done usually at milking when new Mastitis infection is discovered or Treatment regime for existing case is applied.