

Guidelines for Extra Label Drug Use for Bovine Practitioners

- "Extra Label Drug Use " (ELDU), often referred as "off-label use", refers to the administration of any drug, whether it is a prescription or over-the-counter (OTC), to an animal in a manner that is not in accordance with the label and insert directions. ELDU arises whenever there is a deviation from the label directions in regards to the stipulated dosage regimen and label claims. Compounding of veterinary medications is also considered ELDU and should be avoided unless no alternative exists. If compounded medications are administered, all principles of ELDU apply.
- It is recognized that appropriately labeled medications are not available for all conditions that veterinarians encounter and hence ELDU is warranted, provided there is a sound scientific rationale for its use. Furthermore, ELDU should only be performed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian and within the confines of a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship.
- ELDU may be used in food-producing animals provided appropriate withdrawal times and safety standards are established. It is recognized that in many instances there is a paucity of data in regards to providing a sound scientific rationale for establishing an appropriate withdrawal period. Thus, there is a heightened concern that ELDU may lead to violative drug residues in food products derived from animals. To mitigate these risks, veterinarians and producers are encouraged to use veterinary drugs as per label directions whenever possible, and producers should only perform ELDU when directed by a written veterinary prescription.
- Veterinarians practicing ELDU are liable for violative residues that occur and should contact the Canadian gFARAD regarding withdrawal times. (1-866-CGFARAD).