

# WHAT IS CgFARAD™ AND WHY IT MATTERS FOR CHICKEN FARMERS



Veterinarians may prescribe antibiotics in an “extra-label” manner, and for poultry in Canada this type of antibiotic use must be accompanied by a CgFARAD™ number. CgFARAD™ is the Canadian segment of the Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank program.

## CgFARAD™ AND EXTRA-LABEL USE

Where licensed products for a species or a specific condition are not available, veterinarians are legally permitted to prescribe drugs extra label for disease indications, doses, or durations of treatment that differ from the drug labelling approved by Health Canada. However, extra-label drug use means that label withdrawal times for meat, milk, or eggs no longer apply. In these situations, veterinarians will obtain a withdrawal recommendation from CgFARAD™ and a CgFARAD™ number will be provided on the feed slips from the feed mill or on the vet prescription.

CgFARAD™ ensures food safety by providing veterinarians with unbiased veterinary pharmacological expertise on withdrawal times and undertakes research where insufficient information on withdrawal times exists. CgFARAD™ services ensure the safety of Canada’s food supply, while protecting our reputation with international trading partners and export markets.

## EXTRA-LABEL USE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If antibiotics were used in an extra-label manner, there will be a CgFARAD™ number on the feed slip or vet prescription. CgFARAD™ numbers begin with either ON or SK and are followed by a series of 11 numbers (ex. ON – 456901 – 11350).

Any time an antibiotic is used in an extra-label manner, the use must be recorded on the Flock Information Reporting Form under question number 6, along with the accompanying information about the antibiotic used.

The information in the Flock Information Reporting Form is required by federal regulations and is enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. During audits of the On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSP), auditors will cross-reference the feed slips and veterinary prescriptions with the Flock Information Reporting Form.

## MONITOR FEED TAGS AND PRESCRIPTIONS CLOSELY

For all flocks, farmers are to be reviewing feed tags and prescriptions to assess for extra-label use and associated withdrawal times.

Checking feed tags or prescriptions for extra-label use is easy – just look for the CgFARAD™ reference number.

These documents will also provide valuable information about any withdrawal times associated with the antibiotics.

When antibiotics with a withdrawal time are used during the last 2 weeks of the grow-out, additional measures are needed to ensure there is no carry-over or residues of feed and that the withdrawal times are respected. To accomplish this, the feed in the feed lines must be minimized. This can be achieved by knocking down the feed bin with a rubber mallet and emptying the bins and hopper in the barn prior to the subsequent feed ration being used.