

TECHNOTE

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Selling cows – check meat withholding periods

Cows culled from dairy herds must not have any treatment residue above Minimum Residue Limits (MRL) when they are sold for slaughter. Errors have the potential to jeopardise New Zealand's beef cattle trade.

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Check withholding periods.

To avoid errors, all cows treated with antibiotic (by injection or intramammary infusion) must be identified. Dairy farmers tend to use markings that are easily seen during the withholding period for milk but not for the full length of the withholding period for meat.

Identification of animals for the duration of the meat withholding period requires permanent identification and written records that can be referred to when determining if withholding periods for meat have expired.

Advisers should check the MPI foodsafety website for up-to-date information on the MRL for dry cow products.

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