4. Service providers should use approved drugs with adequate information on efficacy, safety and withdrawal period.
5. Observe withdrawal periods and harvesting intervals before consuming crops, animals and their products after the use of drugs and chemicals. It is very important to observe milk withdrawal time post-treatment where milk from animals undergoing medication is not used at home or sold.
6. Store drugs and chemicals separately from animal feeds.
7. Properly dispose of unwanted or expired drugs, empty containers and accessories such as syringes and needles.
8. Safeguarding animal yards/sheds treated with insecticides to avoid animals licking the chemicals.
9. Avoid the use of drug and chemical containers for household chores.
10. Avoid feeding animals with urban/ contaminated kitchen waste.
11. Allow animals to stand for 30 minutes after spraying or dipping for excess acaricide to drip off before moving to the pasture.

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HOW TO CONTROL VETERINARY DRUGS AND PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN MILK AT FARM LEVEL

Introduction

Milk for human consumption may be contaminated by veterinary drugs such as antibiotics and anthelmintics as well as pesticides commonly used on the farm. The presence of these contaminants leads to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in humans besides their direct toxic effects. The risk of having residues in milk and milk products should be minimised in order to reduce losses.

Sources of veterinary drugs and pesticide residues in milk

- Failure to observe the recommended withdrawal (waiting period) for consumption of milk from animals treated with antibiotics and anthelminthics.
- Ingestion of:
    i. Pesticides applied on crops like fruits, vegetables, cereals, pastures and fodder.
    ii. Pesticides that are applied on animals to control external parasites like ticks and fleas.
    iii. Pesticides for insect control in cattle yards and sheds.
    iv. Contaminated animal feeds.
- Re-use of drug and chemical containers for storing milk.

Agricultural chemicals, paints and spraying equipment in the animal feed store

Infusing antibiotics into teats for mastitis treatment

Farmer injecting camel thus increasing the risk of drug residues

Reducing veterinary drugs and pesticide residues in milk

1. Keep animals healthy through vaccinations, proper feeding and having a clean boma such that there is minimal use of veterinary drugs.
2. Keep good health records for each milking animal The record must have the following:
    - Animal identification.
    - Name of disease (diagnosis).
    - Treatment date.
    - Product/drug used.
    - Dose rate.
    - Details of the service provider.
    - Milk withdrawal period.
3. Ensure that animals are treated by qualified and authorized animal health service providers.