



## *Health Care Practices for Our Food Animals*

A CT, MA, RI SARE Professional Development Program 2014-2017

### **SARE PDP Tristate Projects**

- 2014-2017 Health Care Practices for our Food Animals
- 2011-2014 Grass-Fed All Year Long
- 2008-2011 Producing Natural Local Meat for Consumers

**Abstract:** Close to 30 million pounds of the antibiotics sold in the U.S. are used in animal agriculture (80% of all antibiotics sold). The 2014 PDP project assessment questionnaire surveyed 110 agricultural service providers, veterinarians, and university educators. Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents stated that agricultural service providers and farmers need education about the use of drugs/antibiotics in food animal production.

The grant creates a *Health Care Practices for our Food Animals Working Group* that will design educational programs for agricultural service providers to assist farmers with information and assistance from veterinary, university, and regulatory professionals to address the following key topics:

- Insuring adequate drug protocols to treat sick animals
- Antibiotic use and resistance
- Identify food animal production systems that prevent disease and reduce the need for antibiotics
- FDA and USDA regulations for uses of drugs/antibiotics/hormones

This grant will enhance the three components of sustainable agriculture:

- Environmental: reduce antibiotics in food production, soil and water
- Economic Viability: reduce off-farm inputs and meet increased consumer demand for local foods free of antibiotics and drugs
- Social: respond to concerns about the effects on humans of antibiotics in food animals and work to create successful strategies to preserve antibiotic efficacy.

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