

- Cull cows
- Meat withholding period

Local and overseas consumers demand 'clean beef', free from unacceptable chemical residues. Cows culled from our dairy herds must be free from all unacceptable residues when they are sold for slaughter. Errors have the potential to jeopardise Ireland's beef export trade and affect domestic consumption.

All cows must be identified if treated with any antibiotic. Dairy farmers tend to maintain markings which can be easily seen on cows during the milk withholding period, but not for the full length of the meat withholding period. They generally rely on permanent identification and written records to check when meat withholding periods have expired.

It is essential to keep records of all treatments and check these for every cow that is to be sold.

20.1 Check withholding periods

Refer to Management Note F
Guide to withholding periods
after use of dry cow treatment.

Do not sell for meat unless the antibiotic withholding period for meat has passed.

If you do have to sell cows before the withholding period has passed you should inform the purchaser.

Ideally if you are planning to cull cows, do not treat them with DCT.

