Medicated Water

Some operations have systems capable of delivering medication to sick animals via the drinking water. This is done because water consumption by a sick animal is more predictable than feed intake.

(See the Medical Supplies: Use and Storage section of the Producer Manual.)

17. If you ever use medicated water on your farm:

17a) How do you determine that this medication is necessary? *If you never use medicated water, skip to the next section — Medication and Vaccine Usage.*

17b) How do you ensure that water medications will be correctly and accurately proportioned to deliver the proper dosage to targeted pigs only?

Include in your answer the name of the person that makes the decisions, calibration of dispensers, selection of medication, the placement of valves and whether these need to be adjusted by hand, flushing water lines, the risk of non-medicated swine eating the feces of or drinking from the gutters of treated pigs, list who is responsible, staff training, the chain of command and testing. Remember that water medication is a medical treatment and must be recorded in your treatment records. The Medical Supplies: Use and Storage section of the Producer Manual discusses issues such as properly dosing animals and water consumption. These are two important points to consider when preparing to administer water medication.

17c) How do you ensure that the procedures you have set out are being followed?

Whether you are responsible for administering water medication or it is the responsibility of someone else who works in the barn, how do you make sure that everything is done as it should be? How do you monitor it? What records do you check? Consider things such as scheduled calibration, checking stock solutions, checklists, inventory control, maintenance records and periodic testing.

17d) What would you do if something went wrong?

This question asks you to create a deviation procedure. What will you do if the medicated water is sent to the wrong animals? What if the wrong dose is given? How would the wrong dose affect the effectiveness of the medication or the withdrawal time? Consider how you would identify the pigs and how you would determine that they could be safely marketed as being residue free. How would you handle the water lines? Could medicated water be redirected?