

The Need

OVERVIEW ON ANTIBIOTICS

While there are a wide variety of tools farmers use to protect the health and well-being of their animals, antibiotics are an essential element of animal care practices to ensure supporting food security, as well as sustainability and viability of our producers which form a major backbone of our industry. Our industry supports the responsible use of antimicrobial products for therapeutic purposes as well as to control and prevention of disease leading to better growth. We believe our veterinarians and other animal health experts are uniquely qualified to determine how best to treat, control and prevent animal diseases to keep animals healthy.

Drivers of Confusion:

1. Ongoing pressure; NGOs, City/State Government & Media
2. General misunderstanding of antibiotics.

It's important to know that not all antibiotics are alike.

Antibiotics can be grouped into three broad categories – whether they are approved to be used for humans only, animals only, or both humans and animals. These categories of antibiotics, which are sometimes called “classes,” include a variety of antibiotics that have particular uses.

Human-only antibiotics – These are antibiotics that will never be approved for use in animals, creating a reserve of unique antibiotics for humans.

Animal-only antibiotics – Because animals are susceptible to different diseases and have different needs than humans, animal-only antibiotics have been developed to prevent and treat specific health requirements of animals and are not used in human medicine. (ionophores, and other animal use antibiotics)

Shared-class antibiotics are approved for animals and humans. Going forward, Industry will voluntarily narrow the use of this class of antibiotics only for therapeutic uses in animals under veterinarian and therapeutic supervision.

Animal Well-Being

Antibiotics help ensure animal well-being. Antibiotics are one way, but not the only way, that producers use to keep their animals healthy. Using them alone or in excess is not responsible farming. Instead, farmers use a whole array of methods to ensure the health of the animals in their care.

Bacteria and disease is unavoidable. Farmers / producers work hard to prevent disease in their herds and flocks through good animal care and well-being practices. But because bacteria and

other microbes are found everywhere in the environment, it's virtually impossible to prevent animals from being exposed to disease. This is true whatever management system is used, whether it is cattle kept on open ranges, or poultry housed indoors or swine.

Treat, control, prevent. As a result, there will always be situations where best management practices alone will not prevent disease. At that point it is vital that veterinarians have access to antibiotics to treat an animal when it is diagnosed with a bacterial infection as well as treat other animals in the group at the same time to control the disease..

Additionally, using animal-only antibiotics (i.e.; those that are not used in human medicine) to help promote growth and lean muscle in animals would be an appropriate antibiotic use for farmers to consider as these uses do not pose a risk to human health.

Human and Food Safety

Unbiased, scientific information. Our industry also supports legislative, professional and educational options that ensure that producers/farmers have access to the best information and resources regarding animal welfare and food safety. Our goal is to ensure that farmers, veterinarians, consumers, retailers, food service and others can make the best choices about animal nutrition and health management for their own needs based on unbiased, scientific information.

Responsible use supported. Our industry supports the responsible use of antimicrobial products for therapeutic purposes with veterinarian oversight, which includes treatment, control and prevention of disease. We believe veterinarians and other animal health experts are uniquely qualified to determine how best to treat, control and prevent animal diseases to keep animals healthy.

Education, Oversight and Regulation

Our industry also supports producer and consumer choice. We recognize and understand consumers' increasing concern regarding the possibility of antibiotic resistance. It is our responsibility to help ensure that antimicrobials are used responsibly to protect the health of animals and humans as well as the safety of the food supply.

Our industry supports legislative, professional and educational options to ensure that list of antibiotic used for growth and are safe for the humans which are legalized and legislation by our government to ensure that farmers, producers, food chains etc have access to the best information and resources regarding animal welfare and food safety. Our goal is to ensure that farmers, veterinarians, consumers, retailers, food service and others can make the best choices about animal nutrition and health management for their own needs based on unbiased, scientific information.

Summary.

1. Industry supports judicious and responsible use of antimicrobial products.
2. Encourage Animal only use antibiotic which are safe for humans
3. Industry be invited and be involved to shape the antibiotic use laws.
4. Supports Risk analysis / Risk management for the use of antibiotics.