

CHICKEN & ANTIBIOTICS

LET'S CHAT ABOUT THE FACTS

There's been a lot more news about antibiotic use in Canada's food. More and more restaurants, processors, and retailers are offering more and more choices to Canadians when making their meal decisions.

We all agree.

While antibiotics are an important part of modern human and animal medicine, it is critical that they be used RESPONSIBLY.

That's why we implemented an antimicrobial use (AMU) strategy to demonstrate responsible use and to reduce use where possible.

The industry continues to examine methods to reduce antibiotic use.

Chicken Farmers of Canada developed the AMU strategy with:

- Animal Nutrition Association of Canada
- Canadian Hatchery Federation
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
- Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council
- Turkey Farmers of Canada
- Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians

The goal of the AMU strategy is to ensure the continued effectiveness of antibiotics for both humans AND animals.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

We eliminated the preventative use of Category I antibiotics in 2014 – since then, the Canadian chicken industry is no longer permitted to use them.

Antimicrobial drugs are ranked based on the drugs' importance to human medicine, ranging from Category I drugs, which are essential for the treatment of serious bacterial infections, to Category IV drugs which are not used in human medicine.

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA FOR ANTIMICROBIAL CATEGORIZATION

| Category | Preferred option for treatment of serious human infections | No or limited alternatives available |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| I – Very High Importance | Yes | Yes |
| II – High Importance | Yes | No |
| III – Medium Importance | No | No/Yes |
| IV – Low Importance | Not applicable | Not applicable |

Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/antimicrob/amr_ram_hum-med-rev-eng.php

NOW WE'RE:

- Analyzing antimicrobial resistance
- Reviewing best management practices
- Ensuring effective controls of antibiotic use in Canada
- Educating stakeholders
- Researching and sourcing alternative products

ANOTHER BENEFIT OF SUPPLY MANAGEMENT:

- Supply management lets us ensure that rules and regulations are uniform across Canada.
- It also makes the enforcement of those rules consistent and effective.
- Under less-regulated systems, things like animal care, antimicrobial use, and more are difficult to enforce. Supply management means that the commodity organizations are able to levy penalties on farmers who do not comply.

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