

# CANADIAN *Chicken industry* REDUCES *antimicrobial use*

## REDUCTION TIMELINES

### *Step 1*

Elimination of the preventive use of Category I antibiotics in May 2014

### *Step 2*

Elimination of the preventive use of Category II antibiotics at the end of 2018

### *Step 3*

Reduction of antimicrobial use, with a focus on the preventive use of Category III antimicrobials

**L**aunched in 2012, CFC's *Responsible Antimicrobial Use (AMU) Strategy* continues to support the responsible use of antimicrobials that have been approved by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate of Health Canada.

CFC's *Responsible AMU Strategy* has been founded on the key elements of reduction, surveillance, stewardship, research and innovation to meet consumer expectations, to protect the health and welfare of birds, and to preserve effective treatment options.

The effectiveness of CFC's *Responsible AMU Strategy* and the major accomplishments in antibiotic reduction, along with reduced resistance in targeted bacteria, has been demonstrated by the government's Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) program.

Building on the strategy's success, CFC is now focusing on Step 3 to reduce overall antimicrobial use, with a focus on the preventive use of Category III antimicrobials. This reduction phase will follow a non-regulatory approach to work collaboratively with supply chain stakeholders to promote reduction strategies.

CFC's policy will maintain the use of ionophores (those antimicrobials not used in human medicine) along with the use of antibiotics to treat disease.

CFC will continue collaborating on industry and government surveillance programs to monitor antibiotic use and the impacts of the reduction strategy, while also investing in research to provide innovative solutions. Stewardship of antibiotic use will be promoted by reviewing best management practices, by increasing

the availability of feed additives, and by focusing on quality throughout the stakeholder chain.

The objectives and approach of CFC's *Responsible AMU Strategy* works in collaboration with the Canadian government's Pan-Canadian Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use.

As always, consumers can be assured that Canadian chicken meets rigorous federal and provincial food safety regulations. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency monitors and inspects chicken to ensure there are no issues with antibiotic residues in the meat.

This strategy provides a sustainable means of meeting consumer expectations, protecting the health and welfare of birds, and preserving effective treatment options.

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