

Putting Antibiotics into Perspective

Antibiotics are used to treat, control and prevent illness in animals.

When used responsibly, antibiotics:

- Help manage, control and prevent disease in animals, and preserve efficacy.¹
- Reduce the spread of zoonotic disease in animals and humans.¹
- Contribute to a safe and sustainable food supply.¹



Prevention of disease through the use of vaccination is the first line of defense, and farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians look for ways to continuously improve animal care. Antibiotics are just one tool in the veterinarian's toolbox – and the only tool for combating certain bacterial infections.²

Each of us plays a role in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – a threat to human and animal health. It requires a **One Health** approach – strategic actions to improve human, animal and environmental health through responsible use of antibiotics.^{3,4}

Antibiotics are thoroughly tested and regulated and are used responsibly by farmers and veterinarians.⁵



The FDA sets "withdrawal times" based on research to assure antibiotics have cleared an animal's system before it enters the food supply.⁶



The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service routinely tests food to ensure it is free of antibiotic residues.⁷



Antibiotics that are medically important to humans must be administered under direct veterinary supervision.⁸



The CDC is working to reduce antibiotic use in humans and says at least 30% of antibiotics prescribed in U.S. doctor's offices and emergency rooms are unnecessary.⁹

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