

AHI Statement on
FDA Guidance on Judicious Use of Antibiotics

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The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) draft guidance document on the judicious use of medically important antibiotics in food producing animals outlines principles that have been widely discussed by FDA and among stakeholder groups for more than a year.

We welcome this guidance and agree with FDA that stakeholder collaboration is critical as changes to the judicious use guidelines and the regulatory framework for dealing with certain existing approved uses of antibiotics used in food producing animals are considered. The Animal Health Institute (AHI) will carefully review the guidance and submit specific comments to the agency to help ensure that the process envisioned by this guidance document will result in animal producers and veterinarians having access to the tools they need to protect the health of food producing animals.

AHI has long supported efforts to promote judicious use of antibiotics. For several years, the FDA and the veterinary associations have worked with producers and their associations as well as animal health companies to help ensure adherence to specific judicious use guidelines when using antibiotics in food producing animals. The new FDA guidance is not a statement about the safety of current products and does not immediately affect the approval status of current products. Published, scientific work over the past decade has demonstrated the role healthy food animals play in producing a supply of meat, milk and eggs that is as free as possible from bacteria that cause human illness. The judicious use of antibiotics approved by FDA plays an important role in the food safety chain by keeping animals healthy.

AHI represents the companies that manufacture animal health products – the pharmaceuticals, vaccines and feed additives used in modern food production, and the medicines that keep pets healthy

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