



TYSON FOODS, INC.

# Position Statement on Antibiotic Stewardship



Tyson Foods believes our responsibility in practicing and promoting antibiotic stewardship<sup>1</sup> includes the following:

- Consistent with One Health<sup>2</sup>, we understand that animal, human and ecosystem health are interrelated and must be balanced to sustain humanity.
- Antibiotics are a shared resource for human and animal health. We are focused on minimizing the need to use antibiotics in animals.
- Antibiotics used to maintain animal and human health require a balance of the shared, as well as the unique perspectives of the [World Organization for Animal Health's OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance](#) and the [World Health Organization's List of Critically Important Antimicrobials for Human Medicine](#). Tyson Foods believes that both lists are of equal importance for their respective medical communities.
- Antibiotics are necessary and important tools needed to uphold our ethical obligation to treat sick animals and when necessary, control disease.
- Thoughtful goals related to decreasing the incidence of disease leading to the use of antibiotics, and finding alternatives to antibiotics when disease is present, are appropriate means to an end to achieve a reduction in antibiotic use. Arbitrary reduction targets for antibiotic use are not in the best interest of animal, human or ecosystem health.
- Application of research and sharing of best practices will lead to promotion of antibiotic stewardship.

Tyson Foods recognizes and embraces its responsibility to produce high quality, safe and affordable protein that contributes to the sustenance of humanity. Our role is to work with farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians to ensure the health and welfare of animals that are raised for our supply chain. This includes responsible disease prevention, control, and treatment measures. Disease prevention and control

in animal populations is based in science and is accomplished with veterinary expertise, robust biosecurity programs, effective vaccine strategies, environmental management, production system management, well-designed sanitation programs, appropriate therapeutics, and other practices which minimize stress. Even with the best designed prevention programs, animals still become sick.

*Tyson Foods' role is to work with farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians to ensure the health and welfare of animals that are raised for our supply chain.*

Tyson Foods, along with its suppliers, have standards in place to ensure animal health and welfare are preserved and this includes an ethical responsibility to treat animals within our care if they become sick. Our programs and practices are aligned with our Core Values, our Code of Conduct and all applicable laws and regulations. Adhering to guidelines for responsible use of antibiotics issued by World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), farmers, ranchers, and producers under the direction of veterinarians may use shared-class medically important antibiotics. Antibiotics should be used based on the best available veterinary medical evidence in an ethical and legal manner. Our goal is to improve antibiotic stewardship, including to reduce the need to use antibiotics, thus decreasing the potential for the development of antibiotic resistance in animals and their environment.

Animal, human and ecosystem health are cornerstones to sustainability. This is because untreated animal disease has a negative impact on natural resource utilization within animal populations which drives greater environmental



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impact (greater greenhouse gas emissions, land use and water intensity). Additionally, there is an ethical component that must be considered as animal disease may contribute to reduced accessibility to safe, affordable food. As antibiotics are important tools for veterinarians to maintain animal health, these broader impacts of withholding treatment must be considered when approaching antibiotic use decisions in animals and humans.

Tyson Foods is committed to improving the health of humans, animals and the ecosystem. It is important that animal health decisions are based in science and take a holistic approach to understand direct and indirect impacts of choices we make within our supply chain.

## Areas of Continued and Future Focus

**Research:** Tyson Foods commits to collaborate on research that advances animal health and welfare and leads to continuous improvement in antibiotic stewardship and the reduction in the development of antibiotic resistance.

- Directly support research projects focused on improving animal health and mitigating the development of antibiotic resistance in animals.
- Identify and prioritize effective, non-antibiotic interventions, including preventive management practices, that reduce the need to use antibiotics.
- Identify and adopt best management practices and innovative technologies that aid in early and accurate disease diagnosis to improve case outcomes by enhancing antibiotic efficacy.
- Promote tracking of antibiotic resistance in bacteria in food animal populations.
- Seek better understanding of antibiotic resistance patterns in bacteria within the supply chain.
- Support the development of systems that standardize the collection of antibiotic use information within supply chains.

- Promote active participation and leadership in organizations that have a focus on antibiotic stewardship.

**Practice:** Translate research into practice to reduce the need to treat animals with antibiotics throughout the supply chain.

- Focus on the use of preventive veterinary medicine (including robust biosecurity programs, effective vaccine strategies, environmental management, production system management, and well-designed sanitation programs) within the supply chain.
- Practice and encourage antibiotic stewardship within our supply chain.
- Support educational programs on diagnostics, preventive practices, therapeutics, and regulatory compliance.
- Engage directly with supply chains to understand where and why antibiotics are used.
- Support the development of systems that provide treatment success and antibiotic resistance information to veterinarians who provide animal health oversight.

<sup>1</sup>Antimicrobial stewardship refers to the action's veterinarians take individually and as a profession to preserve the effectiveness and availability of antimicrobial drugs through conscientious oversight and responsible medical decision-making while safeguarding animal, public, and environmental health. [Learn more at AVMA.](#)

<sup>2</sup>One Health is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. You can find out more about One Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) One Health website, [by clicking here.](#)