



TYSON FOODS, INC.

Position Statement on Antibiotic Stewardship



Tyson Foods believes our responsibility in practicing and promoting antibiotic stewardship¹ includes the following:

- Consistent with One Health², 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 and are necessary and important tools needed to uphold our ethical obligation to treat sick animals and when necessary, control disease³.
- We are focused on reducing the need to use antibiotics in animals within our supply chains.
- Arbitrary reduction targets for antibiotic use are not in the best interest of animal, human or ecosystem health.
- 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.
- Thoughtful goals related to decreasing the incidence of disease and finding alternatives to antibiotics when disease is present, are appropriate means to an end to achieve a reduction in antibiotic use.
- We will strive to have science-based goals with measurable parameters to monitor progress towards these goals.
- Application of research and sharing of evidence-based 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 and veterinarians to ensure the health and welfare of the animals raised for our supply chain, while also taking

public health concerns into consideration. 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 and reduce disease incidence and severity. Even with the best designed prevention programs, animals still become sick. 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.

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

Our antibiotic stewardship program 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), veterinarians 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.

We believe modern animal production systems, which have access to antibiotics to treat animal disease, can improve both sustainability and food availability.



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This is because untreated animal disease has a negative impact on natural resource utilization within animal populations which drives greater environmental 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 potential 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.
- Support research focused on better understanding the relationship of antibiotic use in livestock and antibiotic resistance in humans.
- 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 surveillance 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, collaboration, and leadership in multi-stakeholder organizations that have a focus on antibiotic stewardship.

Practice: Translate research into practice to reduce the need to administer 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.

¹Antimicrobial 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 about [AVMA's core principles of antibiotic stewardship](#).

²One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. Learn more about One Health at the [World Health Organization's website](#).

³<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-definitions-antimicrobial-use-treatment-control-and-prevention>