

What is antibiotic stewardship?

Responsible stewardship practices include actions that preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics while maintaining animal health, such as:

- Only using antibiotics when necessary to manage illness in animals
- Establishing best management practices, like use of vaccines, and disease prevention plans to reduce the overall need for antibiotics
- Livestock owners and veterinarians working together to make decisions that improve animal health and welfare long-term

Lack of effective treatments can result in:

- Poor animal health and welfare
- Reduced livestock productivity
- Increased health costs

However, by establishing an antibiotic stewardship plan, we can reduce the animals' risk to developing antibiotic-resistant infections. The more we understand how to effectively treat animals, the more sustainable our farms and practices can be.

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GFI #263

While some healthcare tasks can be performed by producers, a veterinarian is an invaluable partner in treating illness and infection, and in many cases necessary to get proper treatment. Under the FDA's Guidance For Industry (GFI) #263, in June 2023 all medically important antibiotics that were previously available over the counter will require a prescription from a veterinarian for legal use in animals.



For a full list of approved animal drugs affected by GFI #263, visit:

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/antimicrobial-resistance>

Antibiotic Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine



Antibiotics are a powerful tool for both human and animal health and can remain effective through responsible antibiotic stewardship.

Building a VCPR

- 1 Talk to a Veterinarian**

Identify a veterinarian as a partner in supporting your livestock's health. By having a veterinarian who is familiar with you and your livestock, they can be prepared to provide appropriate care in the case of an illness or infection.
- 2 Build a VCPR**

A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is required for extra-label drug use. Working with a veterinarian to make a plan will allow them to determine when antibiotics can reduce the need for extra veterinary visits and help expedite treatments for your livestock.

Ensure you have the right antibiotic for your animals when they need them.

- 3 Schedule Routine Visits**

Routine visits are more cost-effective and encourage a preventative and proactive approach to maintaining your livestock's health.
- 4 Set Treatment Protocols**

Before illness occurs, set protocols for common conditions with your veterinarian so that you have access to the antibiotics needed to take swift action on your own and recognize when you need to involve your vet.

More Resources

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Antimicrobial Resistance
<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/antimicrobial-resistance>

Locate a Veterinarian
https://www.avma.org/resources/pet_owners/yourvet/

Find An Avian Vet
<https://www.aav.org/search>

Find A Small Ruminant Vet - AASRP
http://www.aasrp.org/about/find_a_vet.asp

Your State's Extension Veterinarians
<http://www.extvets.org/contacts.asp>

Questions to Ask Your Vet

What do we need to do to establish and maintain a VCPR?

What should my treatment records include?

What illnesses and conditions should we establish a protocol for?

How can I improve antibiotic stewardship on my operation?

How will I get a prescription for an antibiotic?

