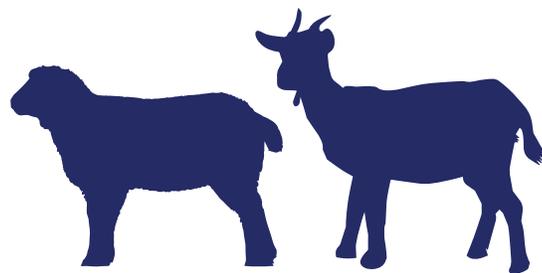


Antibiotic Stewardship Sheep and Goats



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

Antibiotics are a powerful tool for both animal and human health. They can be used to prevent and treat infections caused by bacteria. However, when antibiotics are used improperly, bacteria can become resistant or unresponsive. This is called antibiotic resistance (AMR). Antibiotics can continue to be effective for prevention and treatment through good stewardship and responsible use.

We can keep antibiotics effective through antibiotic stewardship.

What is antibiotic stewardship?

Responsible stewardship practices include actions that preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics while maintaining animal health.

- 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

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



Make the Most of Your Resources

Maintaining flock health means making the most out of limited resources like time and money. Creating a relationship with a team of experts, such as local livestock experts, extension agents, and veterinarians, to work together to care for your operation will pay off not only in your flock's wellbeing, but also in your wallet.



Plan Ahead

Illness and infections are never convenient. The best time to talk to your vet is before your livestock are sick. Planning ahead with your veterinarian ensures you can care for your livestock in a timely manner when it matters most.



Identify a Support Team

You know what's in the best interest of your operation. When it comes to keeping your livestock healthy, the lack of an antibiotic stewardship plan can negatively affect your bottom line. Local livestock experts, extension agents, or veterinarians can provide the support you need to navigate these changes.

Implications for Sheep & Goats

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.**

Conditions of Concern

Abortion, Mastitis

Impacted Diseases

Campylobacter jejuni, *Staphylococcus* spp.

Affected Medications

Crysticillin, Penicillin G Procaine, Ophthalmic Ointment with Polymyxin
Tetracycline

More Resources

Locate a Veterinarian

<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/yourvet/finding-veterinarian>

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Antimicrobial Resistance

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

Your State's Extension Veterinarians

<http://www.extvets.org/contacts.asp>



Building a veterinarian-client-patient relationship

Make a proactive plan with a veterinarian to get the antibiotics your animals need when they need them.

- 1 Talk to a Vet**
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. In some states, it also allows for your veterinarian to provide a prescription for treatment without physically seeing the animal, reducing the need for extra veterinarian visits and expediting treatment.
- 3 Schedule Routine Visits**
Routine visits are more cost-effective and encourage a preventative and proactive approach to maintaining your flock'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.

Questions to Ask Your Vet

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

What illnesses and conditions should we establish a protocol for?

How will I get a prescription for an antibiotic?

What should my treatment records include?

How can I improve antibiotic stewardship on my operation?