



ANIMAL ANTIBIOTICS:

Keeping Animals Healthy
and Our Food Safe



Protecting Animal Health

To keep animals healthy, veterinarians and farmers work together to create flock and herd health-management programs to prevent diseases before they develop and spread. These programs are created and tailored to individual farms and their livestock and poultry, taking into account:

- The best time to vaccinate for diseases;
- How the barn should be ventilated;
- What type and how much feed each animal should receive; and
- What type and how often parasite controls should be administered.

In addition to these measures, antibiotics are a necessary tool to manage infectious disease in animals. The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) approves antibiotics for four uses:

- **Disease Treatment** — To treat animals after they are clinically ill.
- **Disease Control** — To reduce the spread of a specific disease after an animal has been infected.
- **Disease Prevention** — To prevent disease among animals susceptible to infections.

- **Nutritional Efficiency** — To promote overall well-being so animals can grow more efficiently.

How are antibiotics administered?

Farmers work with veterinarians to determine appropriate and safe antibiotic administration plans for each situation. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), once the decision is reached to use antimicrobial therapy (antibiotics), veterinarians strive to optimize therapeutic efficacy, minimize resistance to antimicrobials, and protect public and animal health.

Antibiotics are an important tool to prevent, control and treat disease in animals. Antibiotics keep livestock and poultry healthy and our food supply safe, reducing the chance of bacterial transmission from animals to humans.