



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

ANTIBIOTICS IN LIVESTOCK



MICROORGANISMS

Microorganisms are everywhere. They include bacteria that can sometimes cause disease and infection in humans, birds, animals, bees and plants.



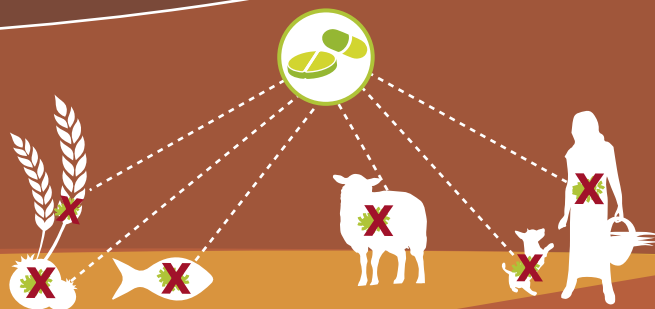
Can microorganisms affect more than one species?

YES Some microorganisms can infect more than one species and many can infect animals, birds and humans. Some microorganisms found in healthy animals and birds can make humans sick. Microorganisms can spread many ways, including through food or the environment.



ANTIMICROBIALS

Antimicrobials that kill bacteria are called Antibiotics. These drugs help us treat diseases caused by bacteria in humans, livestock, poultry, fish, bees, plants, and pets.



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistant bacteria can survive when exposed to an antibiotic which previously could stop the bacteria from growing. This problem is worsened by the overuse and misuse of antibiotics.



ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE

When an animal is given antibiotics, it takes time before the antibiotics are completely broken down and removed from the animal's body. Remnants of antibiotics found in meat, milk, fish, honey, or eggs are called **Antibiotic Residues**

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANT BACTERIA CAN

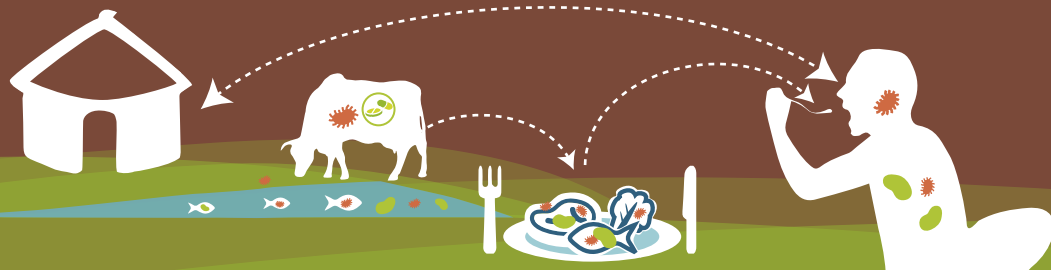
Spread through meat, milk, fish, eggs, and the environment

Stop antibiotics from working to treat infection or disease in people, our birds and our animals

ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUES CAN

Cause health problems for humans who consume the contaminated food

Result in exported food products being rejected by other countries



ANTIBIOTICS IN LIVESTOCK

WHAT TO DO

to keep animals and people healthy and to keep antibiotics working



DECREASE ANTIBIOTIC USE

- Improve biosecurity to keep disease out of your farm.
- Use good farming practices to minimize disease.
- Use vaccines whenever possible.
- Observe animals carefully to detect disease early.
- Don't use antibiotics for growth promotion or to prevent diseases before they appear.
- Only use antibiotics when really necessary!

AND USE ANTIBIOTICS WISELY

- Get advice from a veterinarian on how to treat disease.
- Submit samples to the laboratory to determine the correct antibiotic to use.
- Follow the directions for the dose and number of days to give the antibiotics, even if the animals improve.
- To avoid antibiotic residues, wait the required number of days after giving antibiotics before using honey, milk, eggs, or slaughtering for meat.
- Do not use expired antibiotics, properly dispose of them.



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