



CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2019

FDA REPORTS A 33% DECLINE IN ANTIBIOTIC USE IN FOOD ANIMALS

Antibiotics . . . a word often used by consumers in disgust when it comes to the agricultural community. It seems that no matter how many times it is explained, consumers never truly get that farmers would rather not spend money on costly treatments for their cattle if they didn't have to do it. Unfortunately, like toddlers, cattle get sick and they need to be treated. What is even more infuriating is that those same consumers that speak against the use of any antibiotics in food are also those that are also preaching the values of animal welfare. The conundrum for the farmer is animal welfare says he/she should treat the calf that has pneumonia, but the consumers would rather not have "antibiotics" dumped into all animals...but of course don't let the calf suffer from pneumonia.

While it may be a tiny victory, a recent report from the FDA does indicate that the food animal industry has made strides to reduce its antibiotic use. The report demonstrated a 33% decline from 2016 to 2017 in the domestic sales and distribution of all medically

important antibiotics used in food animal production.

This reduction is a result of efforts to reduce improper use of the drugs. 2017 was the first year medically important antimicrobials were no longer allowed to be used for growth promotion and could only be obtained through a veterinarian's order, also known as a VFD. The reduction was part of the One Health initiative to reduce antimicrobial resistance and its effects on both human and animal health.

Going back prior to 2017, the FDA report also showed a decline of 41% since 2015 in antibiotic sales. 2015 was the peak year of sales/distribution since the FDA began issuing these annual reports. Since the first year of reporting in 2009, there has been an overall decline of 28 percent.

The remainder of the 2017 domestic report indicated that among medically important antimicrobials for use in food-producing animals, tetracyclines accounted for the largest share at 64%. They were followed by penicillin at 12%, macrolides (Zactran, Draxxin) at 8%, sulfas (Albon) at 5%, aminoglycosides

TEST YOUR DAIRY FARMING KNOWLEDGE

- 1) At the end of 2018, how many dairy herds are there in Wisconsin?
 - a) 4,453
 - b) 8,163
 - c) 9,887
 - d) 10,023
- 2) What is the average daily milk production for cows in Wisconsin in 2018?
 - a) 64 lbs
 - b) 68 lbs
 - c) 71 lbs
 - d) 76 lbs
- 3) How many varieties, types and styles of cheese are made in Wisconsin?
 - a) 35
 - b) 145
 - c) 325
 - d) 600

Answers on back



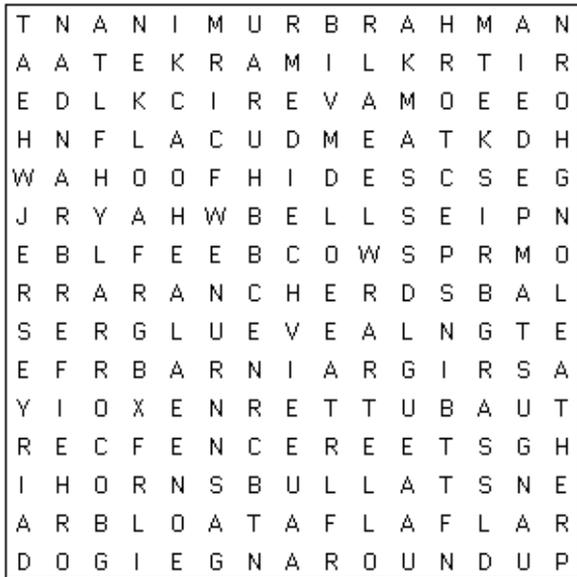
(Neomycin) at 5%, lincosamides (Lincomycin) at 3%, and cephalosporins (Excenel, Excede) and fluoroquinolones (Baytril) each for less than 1%. The authors estimate that 42% of the total was intended for use in cattle, 36% for use in swine, 12% for turkeys, 5% intended for chickens and an estimated 5% intended for use in other or unknown species.

While this may seem insignificant in a stretch of time in which everything seems it be going wrong in the industry, it is something to be proud of nonetheless. There is no lack of critique from consumers as perceptions change and many become even more distant from agricultural life. However, if the future holds that the cost of milk and dairy products need to increase in order to truly support American

dairy farmers, then the industry needs to be able to answer by showing that we are making efforts to improve animal welfare and reduce agriculture's impact on antimicrobial resistance. This report is the start of some leverage the industry can utilize in the future. It demonstrates that when the agricultural industry is asked to respond to consumer criticism and One Health initiatives, it can do so.

If anything comes of this data, it can at least provide farmers another talking point when they are working with people outside the industry and they question the use of antibiotics in food animals. Perception is everything right now. Farmers should be proud they have been able to reduce their use of medically important antibiotics by 33% and hopefully the trend will continue without risking the welfare of the animals. It is something that can only benefit the industry and consumers.

Cattle



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|---------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|
| ALFALFA | BUTTER | GRAIN | INSPECTOR | RANCH |
| ANGUS | CALF | GRASS | JERSEY | RANGE |
| BARN | CORRAL | HAY | LEATHER | ROUNDUP |
| BEEF | COWS | HEIFER | LONGHORN | RUMINANT |
| BELLS | CUD | HERD | MARKET | STALL |
| BLOAT | DAIRY | HEREFORD | MAVERICK | STAMPEDE |
| BRAHMAN | DOGIE | HIDES | MEAT | STEER |
| BRAND | FAT | HOLSTEIN | MILK | TALLOW |
| BRISKET | FENCE | HOOF | OXEN | VEAL |
| BULL | GLUE | HORNS | PASTURE | WHEAT |

Dairy Knowledge Answers

1. B 2. A 3. D

