

## BEST PRACTICE POLICY ON ANTIBIOTICS STEWARDSHIP

This best practice policy on antibiotics stewardship has been developed in consultation with leading industry and issue experts. We encourage food companies, including both meat producers and purchasers (such as retailers and restaurants), to refer to this as guidance in the development of their individual policies.

### EXPERT ENDORSEMENTS

This policy is endorsed by:

- Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
- Alliance to Save our Antibiotics
- Center for a Livable Future at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Antibiotic Resistance Action Center at the George Washington University
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Compassion in World Farming

## PRODUCER VERSION

Antibiotics are a critical public health intervention; their prudent use is necessary to preserve their continued efficacy against life-threatening diseases. [Company X] understands that increasing use of antibiotics in humans and animals drives the development of antibiotics resistance. As a producer of products derived from animal agriculture and/or aquaculture, we are committed to being responsible stewards of antibiotics use.

### Principles of antibiotics use

[Company X] is committed to meeting the following principles on antibiotics stewardship across our global supply chains:

- Antibiotics should only be used to treat the diagnosed presence of disease in animals, and in limited circumstances to control disease outbreaks. Antibiotics should not be used to promote animal growth or for routine disease prevention.
- Antibiotic use should be supervised by a veterinarian familiar with the premises and the animals.
- Livestock producers should report their use of antibiotics so that oversight agencies and the public can track progress in meeting use-reduction goals and identify resistance risks and trends.
- Livestock producers should rely on better husbandry practices to improve animal health and welfare, and to minimize the need for routine antibiotics use on farms.

We will apply these principles to our global operations and across all relevant species in our supply chains.<sup>1</sup>

### Our commitments

- We will work to eliminate the use of all antibiotics, including animal-only antibiotics, for purposes of growth promotion, feed efficiency and routine prevention (both prophylactic and metaphylactic use).<sup>2</sup>
- We will administer antibiotics to treat animals, including fish, that have a bacterial infection with clinical signs, and only when prescribed by a veterinarian.
- We will prioritise the reduction of all antibiotics classified as “medically important antimicrobials.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Refers to all animal-derived ingredients where antibiotics use is prevalent

<sup>2</sup> The elimination of routine prophylactic use in groups of animals will not prevent prophylactic use in an individual animal, following an operation, an injury or a difficult birth. Nor does it prevent prophylactic use in a group of animals in exceptional circumstances, for example, to stop a national or regional disease outbreak.

<sup>3</sup> As defined by the World Health Organization. Critically Important antibiotics for human use 5th revision. Geneva, 2017. Accessed at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/antimicrobials-fifth/en/>

- We will underpin our time-bound antibiotic reduction plan with good animal welfare practices and management (e.g., biosecurity, vaccination, hygiene, and animal welfare practices that include avoiding overcrowding and excessive group size, reducing stress, enabling natural behaviours, maintaining good air quality and avoiding mixing).<sup>4,5</sup>
- We will incorporate antibiotics stewardship into [Company X]'s waste and water management plans for all relevant production facilities to reduce the potential spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria through the disposal of animal waste.
- We will commit to supporting research to identify the points of exposure of livestock, poultry, meat and seafood production and processing workers to antimicrobial-resistant pathogens, and develop and implement best management practices to protect workers from this growing threat.
- We will engage farmers, suppliers and other stakeholders to reduce the use of antibiotics across the industry and establish standard reporting requirements on antibiotics use.
- We will document and report publicly on [Company X]'s overall use of antibiotics annually, including total weight in kilograms, types of antibiotics administered and reason for administration (by species).
- We will audit [Company X's] compliance against this policy using independent third-party verification and/or certification schemes.

We will set out global targets and timelines to meet these commitments for all relevant species in our supply chains.<sup>6</sup> We will also put in place a transparent mechanism to regularly disclose progress on adoption and implementation.

#### Suggested targets and timelines

<b>Poultry</b>	100% of our poultry products will comply with this policy by December 2020.
<b>Fish</b>	100% of our farmed fish will comply with this policy by December 2020.
<b>Cattle, pigs and lamb</b>	100% of our products from cattle, pigs and lamb farming will comply with this policy by December 2025.

<sup>4</sup> See "Four Golden Rules" of disease control developed by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture. Accessed at <http://www.ruma.org.uk/antibioticss/guidelines>

<sup>5</sup> See "How to develop an antibiotics stewardship programme: a guide for corporates" by Compassion in World Farming. Accessed at <https://www.compassioninfoodbusiness.com/media/7431208/how-to-develop-an-antibiotic-stewardship-programme.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Refers to all animal-derived ingredients where antibiotics use is prevalent

## PURCHASER VERSION

Antibiotics are a critical public health intervention; their prudent use is necessary to preserve their continued efficacy against life-threatening diseases. [Company X] understands that the higher use of antibiotics in humans and animals drives antibiotic resistance. As a purchaser of products derived from animal agriculture and/or aquaculture, we are committed to being responsible stewards of antibiotic use.

### Principles of antibiotic use

[Company X] is committed to meeting the following principles on antibiotic stewardship within our global operations:

- Antibiotics should only be used to treat the diagnosed presence of disease in animals, and in limited circumstances to control disease outbreaks. Antibiotics should not be used to promote animal growth or for routine disease prevention.
- Antibiotic use should be supervised by a veterinarian familiar with the premises and the animals.
- Livestock producers should report their use of antibiotics so that oversight agencies and the public can track progress in meeting use reduction goals and identify resistance risks and trends.
- Livestock producers should rely on better husbandry practices to improve animal health and welfare, and to minimize the need for routine antibiotic use on farms.

We will apply these principles to our global operations and across all relevant species in our supply chains.<sup>7</sup>

### Our commitments

- We will not source animal-derived products that use any antibiotics for purposes of growth promotion, feed efficiency and routine prevention (both prophylactic and metaphylactic use).<sup>8</sup>
- We will require suppliers to administer antibiotics to treat animals, including fish, that have a bacterial infection with clinical signs, and only when prescribed by a veterinarian.
- We will require suppliers to prioritise the reduction of all antibiotics classified as “medically important antimicrobials.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Refers to all animal-derived ingredients where antibiotic use is prevalent

<sup>8</sup> The elimination of routine prophylactic use in groups of animals will not prevent prophylactic use in an individual animal, following an operation, an injury or a difficult birth. Nor does it prevent prophylactic use in a group of animals in exceptional circumstances, for example, to stop a national or regional disease outbreak.

<sup>9</sup> As defined by the World Health Organization. Critically Important antibiotics for human use 5th revision. Geneva, 2017. Accessed at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/antimicrobials-fifth/en/>

- We will require suppliers to underpin our antibiotic reduction plan with good animal welfare practices and management (e.g., biosecurity, vaccination, hygiene, and animal welfare practices that include avoiding overcrowding and excessive group size, reducing stress, enabling natural behaviours, maintaining good air quality and avoiding mixing).<sup>10,11</sup>
- We will ensure that our products do not have any prejudicial levels of antibiotics residues by requiring suppliers to comply with strict withdrawal periods and through routine monitoring and sampling.
- We will engage farmers, suppliers and other stakeholders to reduce the use of antibiotics across the industry.
- We will document and report publicly on [Company X]'s overall use of antibiotics annually, including total weight in kilograms, types of antibiotics administered and reason for administration (by species).
- We will require suppliers to implement a time-bound action plan, audited by third-party verification schemes, on compliance against this policy. We will support suppliers who meet the commitments included in this policy, and exclude suppliers who are unwilling to comply with them.

We will set out global targets and timelines to meet these commitments for all relevant species in our supply chains.<sup>12</sup> We will also put in place a transparent mechanism to regularly disclose progress on adoption and implementation.

### Suggested targets and timelines

<b>Poultry</b>	100% of our poultry products will comply with this policy by December 2021.
<b>Fish</b>	100% of our farmed fish will comply with this policy by December 2022.
<b>Cattle, pigs and lamb</b>	100% of our products from cattle, pigs and lamb farming will comply with this policy by December 2026.

<sup>10</sup> See "Four Golden Rules" of disease control developed by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture. Accessed at <http://www.ruma.org.uk/antibioticss/guidelines>

<sup>11</sup> See "How to develop an antibiotics stewardship programme: a guide for corporates" by Compassion in World Farming. Accessed at <https://www.compassioninfoodbusiness.com/media/7431208/how-to-develop-an-antibiotic-stewardship-programme.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Refers to all animal-derived ingredients where antibiotics use is prevalent