

Framework for Antibiotic Stewardship in Food Animal Production

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION

Antibiotics are an essential tool in maintaining the health and well-being of humans and animals. A comprehensive approach to antibiotic stewardship is required to protect their efficacy, as well as ensure food safety and security. Because of the resistance challenge, antibiotic use in all settings needs to be carefully and responsibly managed.

Essential to antibiotic stewardship and animal well-being are appropriate veterinary oversight; minimizing the need for antibiotics through biosecurity, good husbandry practices and other disease prevention strategies; optimizing treatment efficacy through sound decision-making; and appropriate drug selection and use.

CORE COMPONENTS OF ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

	Foundation	Implementation	Evaluation
	Know what to do, why, and communicate actions	Implement foundation of knowledge	Continuous Assessment of stewardship practices
Commitment and culture	Know about antibiotic stewardship and why it is needed	Caregivers understand and embrace their role in stewardship	Demonstrate commitment to stewardship
Veterinarian guidance and partnership	Understand VCPR and its importance	Have a valid VCPR and animal health plan in place	Demonstrate that veterinarian has an appropriate oversight role
Disease prevention strategies	Know spectrum of options to prevent diseases	Implement appropriate husbandry, biosecurity and other prevention practices	Demonstrate protocols and prevention practices
Optimal treatment approaches	Know how to recognize signs of disease and when and how to seek veterinary engagement	Have sound diagnostic treatment practices and protocols in place	Demonstrate that disease treatment outcomes are monitored
Record keeping	Understand importance and value of accurate record keeping	Have appropriate record keeping systems in place	Demonstrate actionable record keeping

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Stewardship programs should meet the following principles:

- Provide transparency & build trust
- Deliver meaningful, objective & actionable information
- Ensure stewardship activities are consistent in approach
- Afford accountability to all stakeholders
- Drive continuous improvement & long-term sustainability
- Ensure responsible, truthful and transparent communication among stakeholders

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