



Beef

QUICK FACTS

Antibiotics and Antimicrobial Resistance

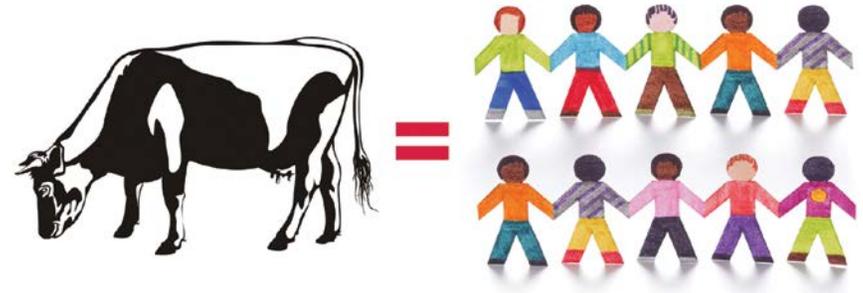


Proactive Tweets, Facebook/LinkedIn Posts, and Quick Facts
for Beef Producers and Consumers



Do you know why cattle receive more antibiotics than people do when they don't feel well?

Like in people, cattle receive antibiotics based upon their weight. The average cow weighs 1,250 pounds. An 8th grader weighs approximately 125 pounds. A cow weighs 10 times more than an 8th grader.



I have heard cattle feeders sometimes feed a type of antibiotic in cattle feed. Is that true?

While cattle are not routinely fed antibiotics in their feed, some cattle receive a class of antibiotics known as ionophores that promote good bacteria in the rumen of the stomach. This works very similarly to the probiotics that people consume to have healthy digestion. These ionophores are not considered important to human medicine.

www.factsaboutbeef.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/fromgrasstograinwhatcattleeat_fs.pdf



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How are antibiotics kept out of the beef that I buy at the grocery store for my family?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets withdrawal times for all veterinary drugs. Withdrawal time is the amount of time required for a drug to be fully processed by the animal's body and out of the animal's system. The Food and Safety Inspection Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture routinely tests meat for its safety according to standards set by FDA.

www.factsaboutbeef.com/category/safety



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Why do ranchers give antibiotics to their cattle?

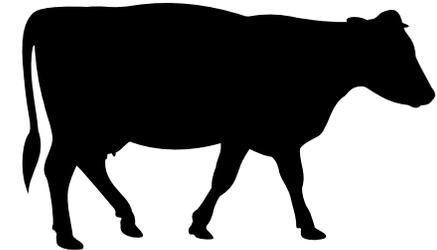
Parents take their children to their pediatrician when they have strep throat and the doctor will prescribe an antibiotic with dosage and number of days to take the antibiotic.

A rancher will administer an antibiotic to their sick calf in the same manner to make the calf feel better, to keep the illness from getting worse and possibly causing death, and maintaining a safe, healthy, and reasonably priced beef supply at the grocery store.

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How does the beef industry keep antibiotics out of our food supply?

- Cattle Producers give the proper antibiotic and dose to their sick animal;
- They provide the proper number of treatments to kill the bacteria; not more, not less;
- Directions for use are followed to reduce resistance;
- Veterinarians are consulted as needed, before, during, and post treatment; and
- Regulated and safe withdrawal times are required before animals can enter the food supply chain.



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What is the beef industry doing to protect consumers from antibiotic resistant bacteria?

- Researchers, universities, physicians, veterinarians, and antibiotic manufacturers are continuing a dialogue to discuss the issues, determine proper actions for the future, and to more fully understand and address this complex question.

For more information visit www.animalagriculture.org/2014AntibioticsSymposium.



What is the beef industry doing to reduce the use of antibiotics in beef operations?

- Animal health companies and their researchers are developing vaccines that provide immunity to certain diseases that can lead to the use of antibiotics in sick cattle, thereby reducing the use of antibiotics. These vaccines save a rancher money, reduce stress on cattle, and reduces the amount of time a rancher needs to treat sick cattle.
- The National Institute for Animal Agriculture is facilitating a dialogue between human health professionals and animal health professionals to increase awareness of antibiotics use and to develop solutions to these complex problems through shared stewardship between the human and animal health communities.

www.animalagriculture.org/2014AntibioticsSymposium



Do you know that to reduce the use of antibiotics, ranchers:

- Use the right medication;
- Use the right dose;
- For the right duration.

Do you know the animal health industry is combatting antimicrobial resistance in beef by continually researching and developing vaccines to eliminate bacterial infections that require the use of antibiotics to treat the infections?

Beef, responsibly raised.



I'M A BEEF PRODUCER and I am proud of the food we produce for American consumers. I take care of my cattle. I prevent disease through vaccination plans, and I treat sick cattle humanely and with antibiotics, responsibly. There is no better, safer, or more plentiful food supply in the world than right here in America.

Consumers, in general, believe in the Ranchers and Farmers as honest and hardworking people. These are the best spokespersons for this industry and issue.



Responsible Beef Producers:
use the right antibiotic, administer the correct dose
and give the proper number of treatments...every time.

*For more information, visit
www.animalagriculture.org/2014AntibioticsSymposium.*



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