Vision Statement

The NIAA Antibiotic Council seeks to enhance an animal agriculture industry that is aligned with judicious antibiotic use policies and practices.

Mission is to facilitate and encourage:

- the judicious use of antibiotics in food animal production to ensure public health, food safety, animal health and welfare;

- applying sound science including the development of metrics to measure the relationship between antibiotic use and resistance as the basis for decision-making and policy development regarding antibiotics in food animal production;

- education and communication on the role, benefits, risks and most current information on antibiotic uses in food animal production;

- leadership and partnership with food chain stakeholders (from farms to consumers to allied industry, etc.) to promote judicious antibiotic use policies and practices;

- measurement of the effects of interventions on outcomes.

AB1  Development of Antibiotic Symposium

BACKGROUND: Increasingly, consumers are intensely interested in how their food is grown and raised, including how antibiotics are used in farm animals. Often this conversation is polarized between animal health, public health, environmental health and consumers. Animal agriculture must continue to strive to:

- work together across species and health disciplines;
- identify common goals and shared solutions;
- reach out to all stakeholders with factual, science-based information;
- continually improve;
- build trust.
RESOLUTION: NIAA shall support planning of the antibiotic symposium AnnuallyAs Needed to be held at a site and date to be determined that will engage participants from the human and veterinary medical and retail communities in an interactive format to cover a variety of perspectives and continue the conversation about antibiotic therapy and resistance dynamics in human and animal health.


AB2 Drug Availability for Sheep and Goats

BACKGROUND: The limited availability of animal drugs approved for use in sheep and goats has been a concern of these industries for many years. Currently, costs of licensing new drugs for minor species discourage research and development leading to new products.

The Minor Use Animal Drug Program (MUADP) was created in 1982 to work with the FDA/CVM, the pharmaceutical industry and producers to facilitate approval of pharmaceuticals and provide information for the safe and efficacious use of these materials in minor food animal species or for minor uses in major food animal species. Enhanced by the Minor Use/Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 (MUMS), this is the ONLY program that actively works to seek FDA approval for veterinary therapeutics for minor species or for minor use in major food animal species.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges adequate and authorized funding for the USDA Minor Use Animal Drug Program (National Research Support Project-7) that works in collaboration with FDA-CVM and the pharmaceutical companies to facilitate approvals of veterinary products for minor food animal species and for minor use in major food animal species. This program provides information so that veterinary products can be used in a safe and efficacious manner in minor food animal species and for minor uses in major food animal species and is consistent with the intent and regulations under the MUMS act.


AB3 Funding for Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (FARAD)

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges adequate and authorized funding through USDA for the FARAD because of its vital role in food safety.


AB4 Availability of New Antimicrobials for Farm Animals

BACKGROUND: Prudent and judicious therapeutic antimicrobial use within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, with strict observance of withdrawal times, is essential to support the health and welfare of United States livestock populations, including minor species, and delivery of a safe, wholesome, affordable food supply.
RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) encourages the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) to approve new antimicrobial drugs with guidelines to assure prudent therapeutic use of antimicrobials in food animals. NIAA encourages the objective prospective monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in both animals and public health medicine.

Furthermore, the FDA-CVM must base any new or additional restrictions or prohibitions of currently approved or new antimicrobials on sound peer-reviewed scientific evidence and risk assessment developed in an open public process demonstrating a significant impact on public health. The public and private sector should continue to promote educational programs for agriculture producers and the veterinary profession to assure prudent and judicious use of antimicrobial agents.