

Statement by the Animal Health Institute**FDA/USDA Public Meeting on Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobial Use in Livestock**

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The Animal Health Institute and its members place great emphasis on the role of the veterinarian in the use of animal medicines. Specifically, we encourage all producers to work with a veterinarian when making decisions about the use of antibiotics to keep food animals healthy whether administered directly to an animal or through feed or water. The careful, judicious use of antibiotics to address animal disease and disease threats to keep food animals healthy is an important link in the food safety chain. Healthy animals produce safe and healthful food.

We support FDA's policy of phasing in Veterinary Feed Directives for all medically important antibiotics used in food animals while also working to phase-out growth promotion uses of these products. This is a significant change in the way antibiotics will be regulated and used, and we commend both the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for holding this listening session and working with farmers to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Once fully implemented, FDA's policy will ensure that all medically important antibiotics will be used only for therapeutic, or targeted, purposes under the supervision of a veterinarian. We will continue to work with FDA, farmers and veterinarians to implement this policy as seamlessly as possible.

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AHI represents the companies that manufacture animal health products – the pharmaceuticals, vaccines and feed additives used in modern food production, and the medicines that keep pets healthy.

