

Reducing antibiotics in food production

ASDA

Save money. Live better.

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Antibiotics are used in farm animals to treat, control and prevent disease. Some antibiotics used in animals are also used in human medicine, and are categorised as “critically important antimicrobials”. Consequently, there is more concern over the use of these products in medical and veterinary treatments.

Antibiotics are a critical and scarce resource and their use may lead to antibiotic resistance in bacteria, making human and animal disease more difficult to treat. Asda does not support routine prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock systems nor their use for production purposes i.e. for enhancing growth or to improve feed efficiency.

Antibiotics should be used responsibly in human and veterinary medicine. This means not using antibiotics to treat viruses or as a substitute for good farm management practices, which reduce the risk of disease – as little as possible but as much as necessary.

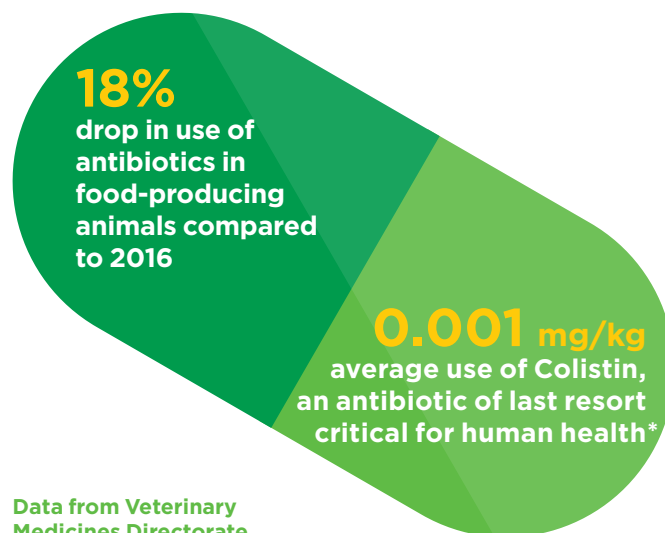
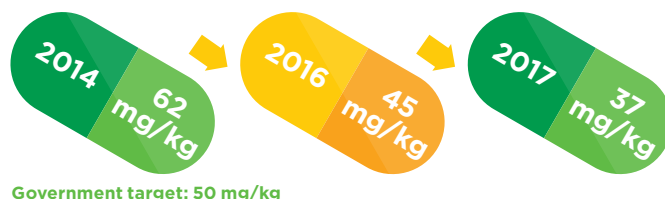
In 2015, our parent company, Walmart, announced its policy on the sensible use of antibiotics. This is in line with the American Veterinary Medical Association programme, but it also meets the **UK’s Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA)** recommendations.

Following the **O’Neill Review on Antimicrobial Resistance** here in the UK, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has committed to a reduction in antibiotic use in livestock and fish farmed for food.

Antibiotics should be used responsibly in farm animals

Asda endorses RUMA’s position on antibiotic reduction. We do not support the routine preventative use of antibiotics. In particular, Asda endorses the statement that ‘antibiotics must not be used to compensate for poor hygiene or inadequate husbandry conditions or where improvements in animal husbandry could reduce the need for antibiotic treatment’.

The sales of antibiotics for use in food-producing animals has fallen:



Data from Veterinary Medicines Directorate (vmd.defra.gov.uk)

*European Medicines Agency target <1mg/kg

Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs)

We are working with suppliers to ensure the use of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, colistin and fluoroquinolones is limited to situations where veterinary guidance justifies the use. Critically Important Antibiotics (CIA) targets have been set for specific sectors. The sheep sector has a target of monitoring and aiming for a 50% reduction by 2020. The Lion Code for egg production, used for Asda shell eggs, has

ceased using Colistin from mid 2016. For dairy cattle, the British Cattle Veterinary Association is recommending minimal use of third and fourth generation Cephalosporins, Fluoroquinolones and Colistin. Under their recommendations, these products should only be used where sensitivity testing demonstrates them to be the only suitable choice to avoid unnecessary suffering.

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Antibiotics use in our UK farms

The use of antibiotics varies depending on the livestock species and farming system used. We have continued the survey of farms supplying Asda. Where possible, we have included information on farming system and country of origin. This year's data are presented alongside last year's.



Chicken

2017
Asda survey (28 million birds) averaged **7.7mg/kg pcu.**

National target:
<20mg/kg by 2020.

2018
Asda survey (28 million birds) averaged **7.3mg/kg pcu.**



Turkey

2017
Asda survey (4 million birds) averaged **20mg/kg pcu.**

National target:
<50mg/kg by 2020.

2018
Asda survey (4 million birds) averaged **35mg/kg pcu.**



Duck

2017
Asda survey (5 million birds) averaged **3.8mg/kg pcu.**

National target to maintain current low use (3.3mg/kg pcu in 2016. Source: British Poultry Council 2017).

2018
Asda survey (5 million birds) averaged **2mg/kg pcu.**



Eggs

2017
Asda survey (1.5 million birds) Cage or Colony farms averaged **17.6mg/kg.**

Free Range farms averaged **36.4mg/kg.**

2018
Cage or colony farms **8.2mg/kg pcu.**
Free range **21.3mg/kg pcu.**
National target is based on birds/days medicated (daily doses) is to be below 1%.

Cage 2.7% (% days of medication with antibiotics)
Free Range 7.0% (% days of medication with antibiotics)



Beef Cattle

2017
Asda survey five farms (suckler bred and dairy bred; mixed grazing and housing) averaged **7.4mg/kg.**

12 all-year-round housed farms averaged **9mg/kg.**

National target
<10mg/kg by 2020.

2018
UK **1.5mg/kg pcu**
Asda survey of 16,000 finishing cattle



Dairy Cattle

2017
Asda survey (30,000 cattle) averaged **20mg/kg pcu.**

National target
<21mg/kg by 2020.

2018
2017 averaged **22.9 mg/kg pcu.**

47% reduction in High Priority Critically Important Antibiotics 2016-17.



Pork

National target
<100mg/kg by 2020.

2018
National UK results: **131mg/kg pcu**
(**2016 183 mg/kg pcu**)



Lamb

2017
Asda survey 10 farms (mixed hill and lowland with 4,500 ewes and producing over 7,000 lambs) was **3mg/kg pcu.**

National target is to monitor antibiotic aiming for a 10% reduction in the period 2016 to 2020.

2018
Asda survey 10 farms, 10,000 lambs weaned, flock ranging from 55 to 1,500 ewe. Average antibiotic use was **4.9mg/kg pcu.**