



## Championing Stewardship Through Proactive Policy: Successes of the Chicken Farmers of Canada Antimicrobial Use Strategy



### Development of the Antimicrobial Use Strategy

Acknowledging the critical importance of responsible antimicrobial use and reduction, the Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) have been actively involved in the development and implementation of their [Antimicrobial Use Strategy](#) to monitor, control, and support the reduction in antimicrobial use on poultry farms in Canada. This strategy has been developed over the last 10 years in collaboration with industry partners, including the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, Canadian Hatchery Federation, Canadian Hatching Eggs Producers, Canadian Poultry and Egg Producers Council, Turkey Farmers of Canada, and the Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians.

Key pillars of the CFC Antimicrobial Use Strategy include (1) defining antimicrobial use; (2) examining and analyzing trends in antimicrobial resistance; (3) assessing best management practices; (4) developing controls for antimicrobial use and reduction; (5) education on antimicrobial resistance and use; and (6) research on antimicrobial alternatives.

### Key Successes & Lessons Learned

Through the Antimicrobial Use Strategy, CFC has been successful in eliminating preventative use of Category I (very high importance to human medicine) and II (high importance to human medicine) antibiotics from Canadian chicken production. The effectiveness of this has been demonstrated by the government's Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) program. Further, CFC has committed to eliminating preventative use

of Category III (medium importance to human medicine) antibiotics. A single antibiotic, Bacitracin, will be impacted by this, as it is the only Category III antimicrobial used preventively in chicken production. To ensure alternative products and approaches are in place for this change, Chicken Farmers of Canada is extending the reassessment timeframe for preventive Category III elimination. This will ensure that the sector is taking a responsible, pragmatic approach to antimicrobial use reduction. These reductions help to limit the emergence of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, which benefits both the chicken sector and public health more broadly, given the importance of these drugs for treating infections in humans.

### Looking Forward

The CFC Strategy, covering all chicken raised in Canada, works in collaboration with the federal government's Pan-Canadian Framework

on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use, and is centered around the key guiding elements of surveillance, stewardship, and research. Moving forward, the CFC continues to build on their Strategy and successes through research to better understand the impacts of gut health and develop antimicrobial alternatives and vaccines. The success of the CFC Strategy to-date shows the value of collaboration, education, and research in the development and implementation of industry-wide changes.



## One Health Mindset to Stewardship: Synergies & Support Between Human & Animal Health Sectors



AHC, livestock producer organizations, provincial, territorial, and federal governments, veterinarians, the animal pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders in animal agriculture have demonstrated leadership by actively engaging in the topic of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance for many years.

### Key Successes & Lessons Learned

In recent years, the agricultural sector has felt an increasing amount of pressure to address antimicrobial use and resistance. There are many active initiatives that contribute to finding solutions, provide communication opportunities with producers and veterinarians, reduce risk of disease and foster appropriate use of antimicrobials. The PHAC has worked collaboratively with these two groups with the goal of being more solution-focused, by fostering a common understanding around AMR between human and animal medical practitioners, and taking a “we all have a role to play” mindset. AHC has played an important coordinating role in championing animal health partners around the [Pan Canadian Framework for Action](#). More specifically, they have helped to benchmark the antimicrobial stewardship activities that are underway in animal agriculture, including communication and educational activities, and were actively engaged in advocating for regulatory amendments to establish limitation and control on the antimicrobials imported under the provisions of Own Use Importation or as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API). In particular, the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) has been instrumental in the progress on AMU Own Use Importation and API Imports, as well as increasing AMU oversight, improved collaboration with stakeholders, and ensuring good manufacturing requirements (GMPs) are met for ingredients. Livestock commodity associations have begun to communicate broadly about responsible use of antimicrobials, develop tools through on-farm QA programs to stimulate responsible use and prompt engagement of the herd veterinarian to develop tailored strategies that can reduce use without compromising animal welfare. The Council has also recommended that livestock commodity groups incorporate AMU and AMR into their research priorities to support the sector. The Canadian

Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has also taken a leadership role, actively developing AMU stewardship tools for veterinarians, and supporting provincial veterinary associations and provincial governments to develop and offer informational sessions on regulatory changes, and on species-specific topics where there may be gaps in veterinary resources, such as bees. Lastly, Council has helped encourage commodity groups and provinces to engage in the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance and Surveillance (CIPARS), through the CAHSS Amu/AMR Network, to help monitor the effects of newly implemented stewardship approaches and to engage in ongoing surveillance on AMU. More details on these activities, and the activities of key Canadian partners, can be found in their 2019 report, [“Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada: Progress on Recommendations and Stakeholder Activities”](#).

### Looking Forward

As with many industries, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the progress on AMR in Canada. Moving forward, Canadian animal health partners must work to re-engage stakeholders and keep the conversation around AMR going, so that progress will continue to be achieved. A key goal to assist with this is to make AMR a top priority for all industry stakeholders and continue the successful work that has been done in recent years around antimicrobial use and resistance.

