

ÉCOANTIBIO

REDUCING THE USE OF
VETERINARY ANTIBIOTICS



The **2017-2021 Ecoantibio Plan** promotes prudent, calculated use of antibiotics. Over time, it aims to reduce the exposure of livestock to antibiotics. It provides for communication and training programmes, access to alternatives to antibiotics and improved prevention of animal diseases.

Following the globally recognised success of the first Ecoantibio Plan 2012-2016 (a reduction of 37% over five years), the objective now is to consolidate these results and continue the efforts under way.

Reducing antibiotic use: we are all concerned

The combat against antimicrobial resistance is a major public health challenge worldwide. Loss of effectiveness for antibiotics impacts the health of people, the health of animals and the health of ecosystems, the health of all these forming an indivisible whole. That is why resistance is being fought with a holistic "One Health" approach.

The Plan's four core focuses

- > Development of **measures to prevent infectious disease and facilitate the use of alternative treatments**.
- > Communication and training on the **core issues for combating antimicrobial resistance**, on **rational antibiotic prescription** and on other ways of **controlling infectious disease**.
- > Provision of **tools for assessing and monitoring antibiotic use**, along with **tools for responsible antibiotic prescription and administration**.
- > Ensuring **satisfactory implementation of the rules for proper use** at national level and **encouraging their adoption across the EU and internationally**.

The plan involves:

- ⌚ all categories of livestock farmer;
- ⌚ veterinarians and pharmacists;
- ⌚ scientists and risk assessors (ANSES);
- ⌚ the pharmaceutical industry;
- ⌚ the official authorities;
- ⌚ the general public – i.e. all animal owners.



How is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food involved?

The Plan is being driven by the Ministry:

- > by raising the awareness of all concerned;
- > by encouraging initiatives by professionals (development of research, changes in husbandry methods, etc.);
- > by making changes to the regulations governing the marketing and prescription of antibiotics.

What is expected...

... of livestock farming sectors?

- Adherence to preventive measures;
- Following training courses on the proper use of antibiotics and biosafety;
- Improved husbandry methods (hygiene, upkeep of farm buildings, monitoring sanitary status).

... of veterinarians?

- Improved prescription practice for reduced use of antibiotics;
- Limitations on on-farm prescription of critically important antimicrobials for which it is imperative to conserve efficacy for human health;
- Provision of advice to farmers to improve livestock conditions and stop disease occurring.

... of scientists?

- Extension of our knowledge in immunology to enable development of vaccines against bacterial diseases;
- Research into alternative treatment methods and the mechanisms underlying resistance;
- Methods for the assessment of the risks of antimicrobial resistance.

... of pharmaceutical companies?

- Development of new antibiotics;
- Development of alternatives such as vaccines to avoid recourse to antibiotics.

ÉCOANTIBIO, a collective success

During the Plan's five years (2012-2016), **livestock exposure to antibiotics declined by 37 %**, while exposure to critically important antibiotics fell by 75 % for fluoroquinolones and 81 % for last-generation cephalosporins between 2013 and 2016.

In France, the exposure of livestock to antibiotics is below the EU average. A general trend towards a decline in resistance has been observed for most antibiotics and livestock farming sectors.

The majority of the planned programmes have been set in train:

- > **communication campaigns:** "Antibiotics are not automatic for us either" targeting pet owners, "Fed, housed, vaccinated" aimed at livestock farmers,
- > **basic and continuous training modules** for veterinarians and farmers,
- > **applied research** with funding of €7m over the period,
- > **events:** regional and national symposia, international conferences, interviews, press articles, steering and monitoring meetings, and more.

Alongside all these incentive and voluntary measures, legislation and regulations have been put in place: a ban on price discounts, rebates and cashbacks on antimicrobial sales, controls on the prescription and dispensing of critically important antibiotics, publication of a guide to good practice for antibiotic use in veterinary medicine and inclusion of this issue in the code of veterinary ethics.

To find out more,
go to the dossier at:
www.agriculture.gouv.fr/ecoantibio



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