



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Healthy animals, happy farmers!

When an infection strikes, and medicines like antibiotics (and other antimicrobials) do not work, you can lose your entire stock of animals to disease.

This also puts the health of you and your family at risk when the infection can spread between animals and people.

**Save lives and livelihoods**  
by following the advice below starting today!

There are two main reasons why antimicrobials don't cure an infection:

- They are the wrong treatment or have been used improperly.
- The germs causing the infection have become resistant to this treatment in a process called antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Every time we use antimicrobials like antibiotics to treat infections in people, animals and plants, these germs have a chance to learn how to tolerate these treatments, making them less effective over time.

AMR is leading to the failure of our most important medicines. Without working antimicrobials, many more people, animals and plants are at risk of dying from infections.

**But we can take action now to keep antimicrobials working!**

# Top ten actions for farmers

to keep animals and people healthy and antimicrobials working



**1** Clean often to get rid of the germs that make animals and people sick. Remember to **thoroughly wash your hands, shoes, and clothing** before and after contact with animals.



**2** **Keep animal housing and outside areas that animals use clean** by clearing away manure and litter often. Waste from animals given antimicrobials needs to be handled more carefully.



**3** **Reduce the risk of spreading germs.** Control who can come into contact with your animals and regularly clean farm equipment. When an animal gets sick, separate it from the rest of your animals to help prevent the infection from spreading.



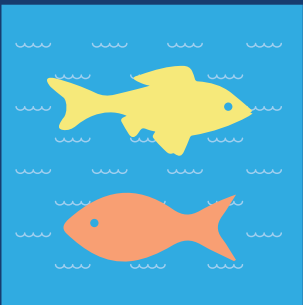
**4** **Practice “all-in and all-out” on your farm** to reduce the risk of new animals infecting the animals you already have. Breed animals at the same time, wean animals at the same time, and keep these groups of animals together at all stages of production. Clean and disinfect animal housing before new animals are introduced.



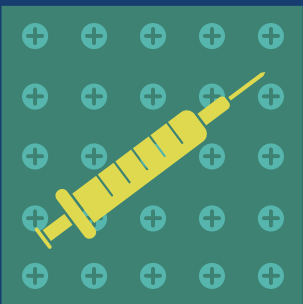
**5** **Keep animal feed dry and stored safely** away from potential sources of germs such as rodents, birds, insects and other animals.



**6** **Avoid stress for your animals.** Keep them comfortable and dry and make sure they have enough space. Let young animals feed from their mothers as long as possible before weaning because this helps to prevent infections.



**7** **Help your animals stay healthy** and avoid getting sick by ensuring they have good nutrition. And keep animals healthy by making sure their water is clean.



**8** **Vaccinate!** Ask your veterinary expert to help you administer important vaccines at the right times because **prevention is better than cure.**



**9** **Seek veterinary expert advice to get the correct diagnosis and treatment** because buying and using the wrong treatment puts the health of you, your animals and your family at risk. Using the wrong antimicrobials is a waste of your time and money.



**10** **Spread the word, not the germs!** Tell other farmers what you have learned because everyone needs to work together for cleaner farming to protect animal health, livelihoods, and the health of all people who depend on antimicrobials working when needed most.



**Want more information?**  
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