



Australian Chicken Meat
Federation (ACMF) Inc

Industry Position Statement on Antimicrobial Resistance

Definitions and Scope

- **Antimicrobial agent***
A chemical agent that, on application to living tissue or by systemic administration, will selectively kill, prevent or inhibit the growth of susceptible organisms. This definition includes antibacterials, antiprotozoals, antifungals, antiseptics and disinfectants, but excludes antineoplastics antivirals, immunologicals, direct-fed microbials and enzyme substances.
- It is important to use antimicrobial agents judiciously to minimize the possibility of resistance in foodborne bacteria developing that may compromise treatment of humans with antimicrobial agents.

Situation Analysis and Background

- Australia has an extremely prudent approach to the use of antimicrobial agents in broiler chickens,
- The two classes of antimicrobial agents for which resistance poses the greatest health concern (cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones) have never been approved for use in Australian poultry,
- Only minimal levels of resistance to antimicrobial agents critical to human health were identified in a recent Government survey of retail chicken meat,
- To minimise the use of antimicrobial agents, the industry focuses on keeping Australian flocks healthy by ensuring high standards of hygiene and infection prevention,
- Antimicrobial agents registered for use in poultry have been in use a long time and yet remain effective, testament to their judicious use by the industry.

Policy Statement on Antimicrobial Resistance:

- The Australian Chicken Meat Industry appreciates that the use of antimicrobial agents in humans or animals has the potential to select for resistance. The industry achieves minimal levels of resistance in poultry by implementing best practice veterinary management and prudent use of antimicrobial agents. Antimicrobial agents approved for use in poultry have been in use for many decades and yet remain effective, attesting to the success of industry initiatives to minimise resistance.
- The industry is constantly researching alternative strategies and improvements in animal husbandry and vaccination so as to reduce further the need to use antimicrobials.

** Antimicrobial defined by JETACAR (Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance) and consistent with definitions used by the European Commission*

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