



**ANTIBIOTIC
STEWARDSHIP**

BPC ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2022

A DUTY OF CARE DESPITE THE CHALLENGES

With poultry being half the meat eaten in the UK, the British Poultry Council's Antibiotic Stewardship plays a vital role in delivering good bird health and welfare, ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of antibiotics, safeguarding the efficacy of antibiotics, and producing food that consumers trust.

The challenges Britain's poultry producers are up against are varied and often extreme. From an ongoing labour shortage to Brexit to the worst case of avian influenza we have ever seen, now working in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, it is more important than ever for our farmers and producers to put quality, nutritious food on every table.



ABOUT THE BPC ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

**SINCE
2012
NEARLY
80%
REDUCTION
IN TOTAL
ANTIBIOTICS
USED YEARLY**

We set up our Stewardship Scheme in 2011 to develop a strategy for the responsible use of antibiotics in the UK poultry meat sector. **Since 2012 BPC member businesses have reduced their total antibiotic use by nearly 80%.**

NEXT STEPS

To continue to drive improvements in **delivering excellence in bird health and wellbeing**, the Stewardship must better understand the link between **use and resistance** to some classes of antibiotics, specifically in chickens and turkeys. By looking into the reason for use in more detail, the sector can develop a strategy to address those areas through improved management practices and alternative interventions.



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ANTIBIOTICS USED IN THE BRITISH POULTRY MEAT SECTOR



ANTIBIOTIC
STEWARDSHIP



78.9%
REDUCTION
IN TOTAL USE
OF ANTIBIOTICS

SINCE 2012



87.1%
DECREASE
IN USE OF
FLUOROQUINOLONES

SINCE 2012



97.7%
REDUCTION
IN USE OF CRITICALLY
IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

SINCE 2012

IN 2021 WE USED



OF
ANTIBIOTICS

This is a near 4 tonne
decrease since 2020

With a responsibility to feed the nation and a duty of care to protect the health and wellbeing of their birds, poultry meat producers have demonstrated phenomenal resilience and continue to collaboratively drive improvements and best practice across the whole supply chain.

British poultry farmers and veterinarians need antibiotics in their toolbox to protect the health and welfare of birds. Delivering excellence in bird health and welfare is the foundation of responsible use of antibiotics; it is about so much more than reduction targets.

Zero use is neither ethical nor sustainable as it goes against a farmer's duty to address any health and welfare issues.

KEEPING ANTIBIOTICS EFFECTIVE

Whilst remaining under target, minor fluctuations in figures demonstrate the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship's approach to treatment in real time, striving to keep antibiotics **effective and fit for purpose - only to be used when necessary.**

We can observe an overall reduction in antibiotics use in broiler chickens but an increase in fluoroquinolone use compared to last year. These were used to treat severe acute infections that were unresponsive to other antibiotic therapy.

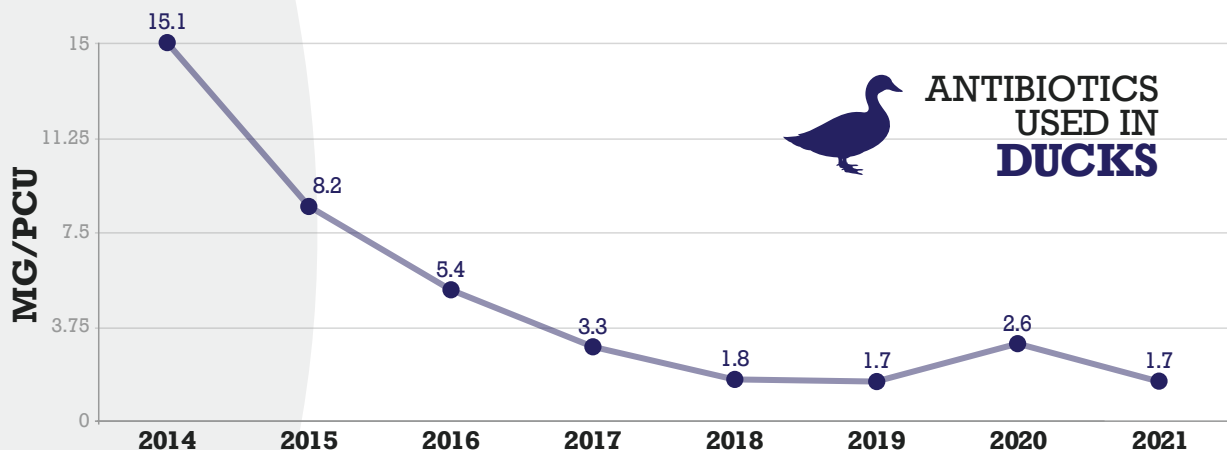
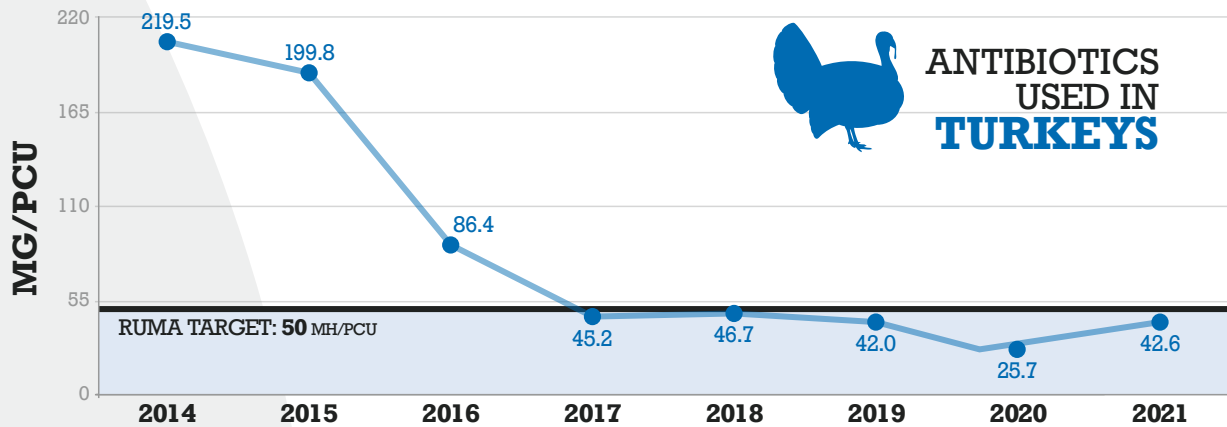
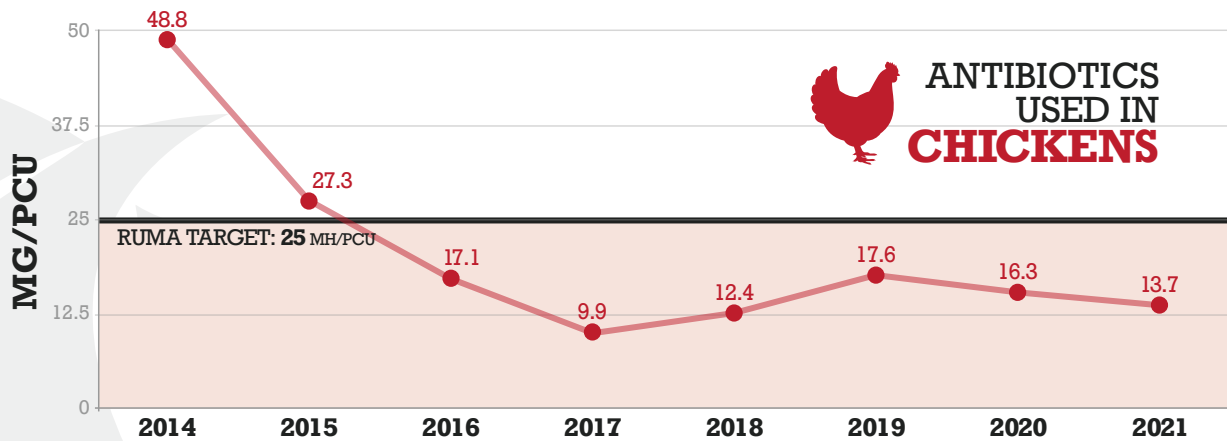
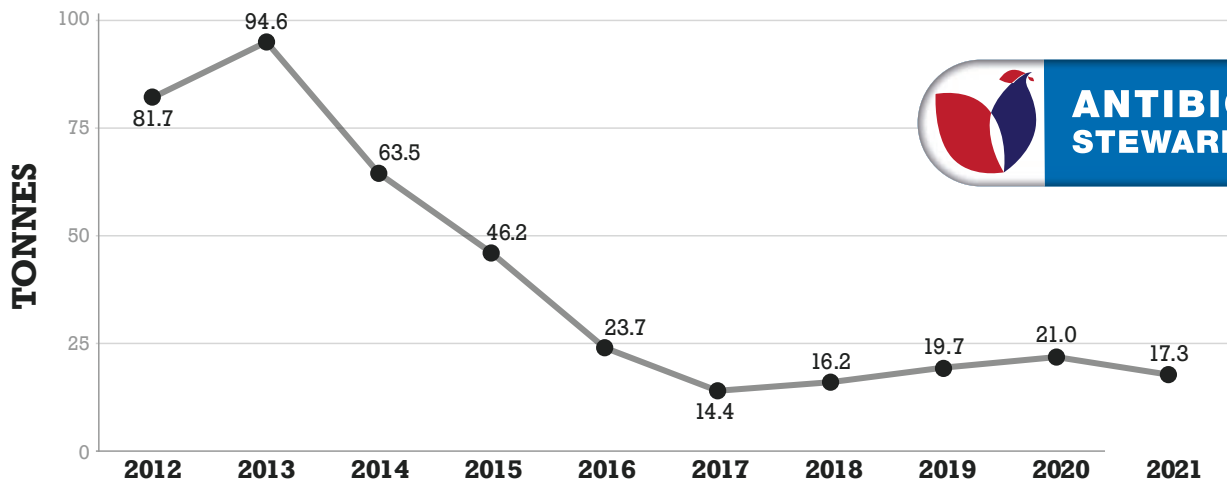
We can also see a rise in use in turkeys in 2021 because of a reduced availability of a licenced vaccine for ORT, necessitating the use of antibiotics albeit not Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs) to control disease

This illustrates the vulnerability of the poultry industry to the vagaries of commercial vaccine supplies, even more acute in minor species like turkey. Use of the CIAs are used only as a last resort and only after other treatments have been considered.

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship continues its work into where further improvements can be made, including looking at effective alternative treatments, interventions and into the granular detail of reason for use itself.

We remain below the Government approved RUMA species specific sector targets for chickens (25mg/pcu) and turkeys (50mg/pcu) and are committed to reporting our progress on an annual basis.

TOTAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS 2012-21



No mg/pcu target declared for ducks