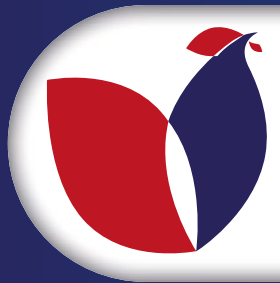




REPORT 2023





ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

REPORT 2023

ABOUT THE BPC ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

We set up our Stewardship 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 almost 80%.



79.5% REDUCTION
IN TOTAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS SINCE 2012

WHAT'S BEHIND STEWARDSHIP SUCCESS?

Collaboration across the poultry meat sector and open and engaging communication with stakeholders is key.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship is at the core of British poultry meat producers' commitment to progress. Poultry is half the meat eaten in the UK. Our producers have a responsibility to deliver excellent animal health and welfare to enhance the productivity of an industry feeding the nation.

Our Stewardship plays a vital role in delivering excellence in bird health and welfare, ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of antibiotics, safeguarding their efficacy, and producing food consumers can trust.

The challenges Britain's poultry producers face on a day-to-day basis are varied and extreme. These issues include highly pathogenic avian influenza and a cost of production and a cost-of-living crisis. Despite such fierce

challenges our farmers and producers are determined to put safe, affordable, and nutritious food on every table.

Despite businesses being pushed to absolute capacity because of these challenges, demand for quality and affordable food prevails. That means the responsible use of antibiotics remains a priority for our producers.

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

98.7% REDUCTION
IN CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS SINCE 2012

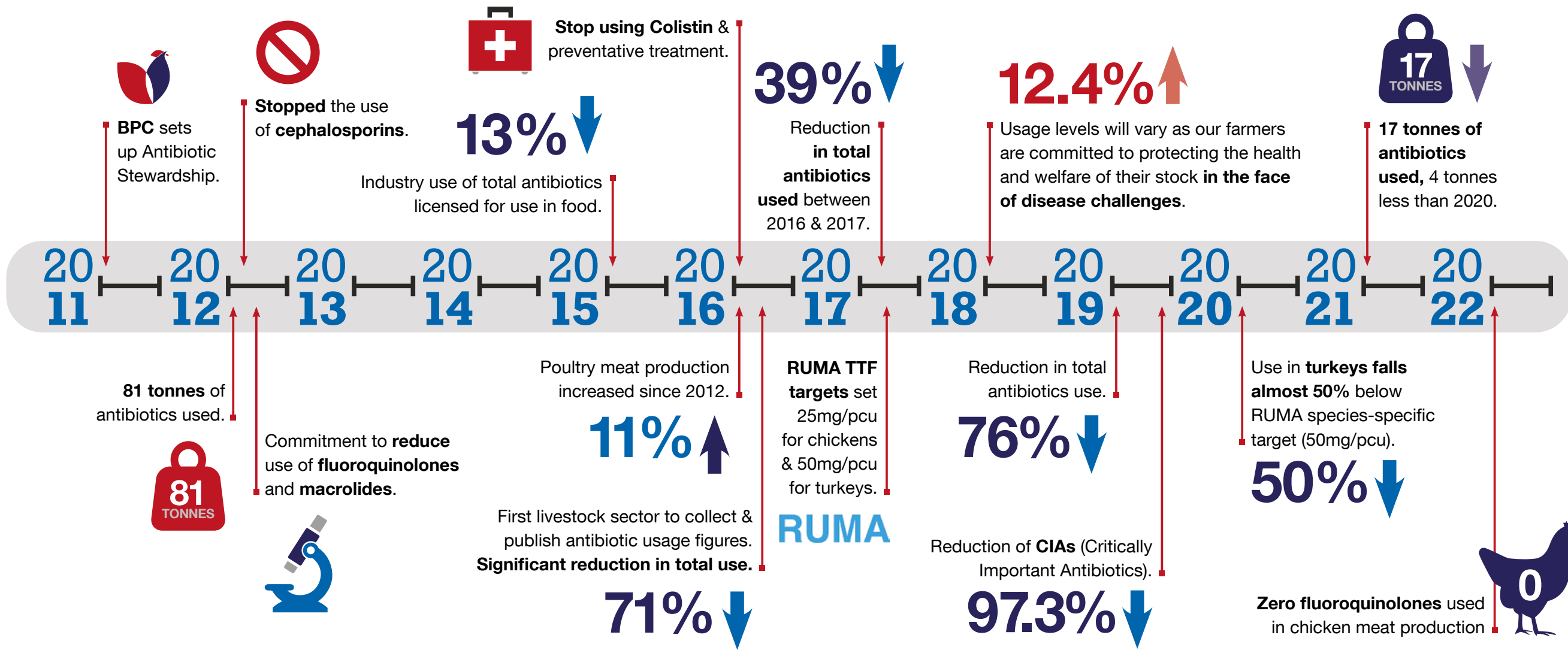
IN 2022 WE USED

16.7

TONNES OF ANTIBIOTICS

CARVING THE PATH FOR SUCCESS

Driving improvements through partnership and collaboration.

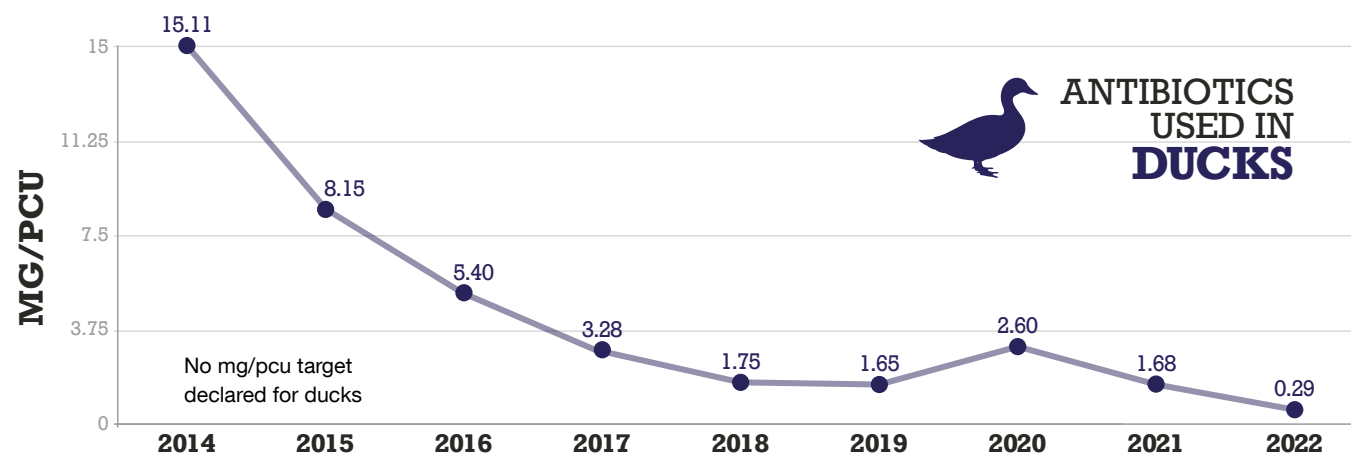
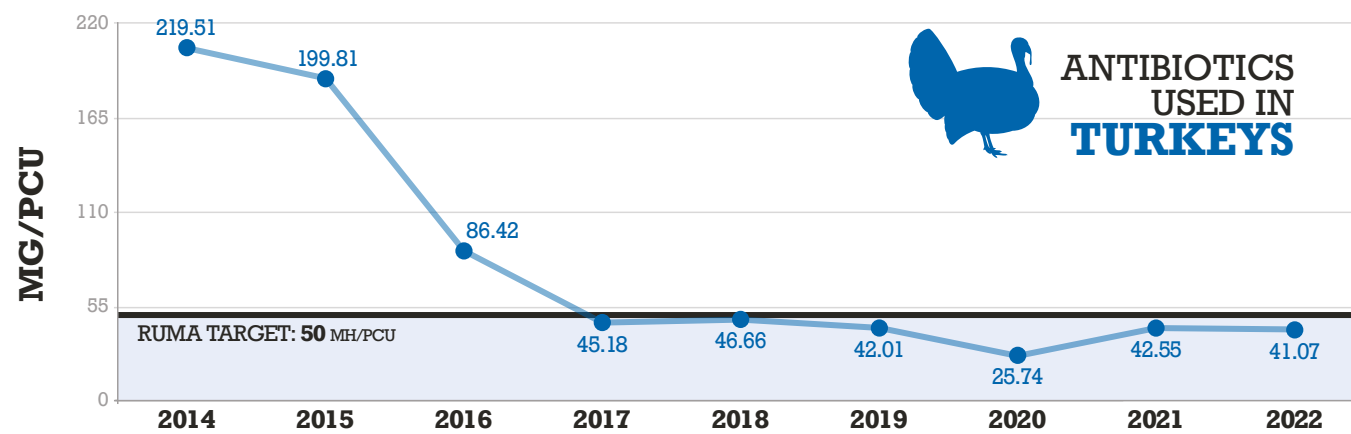
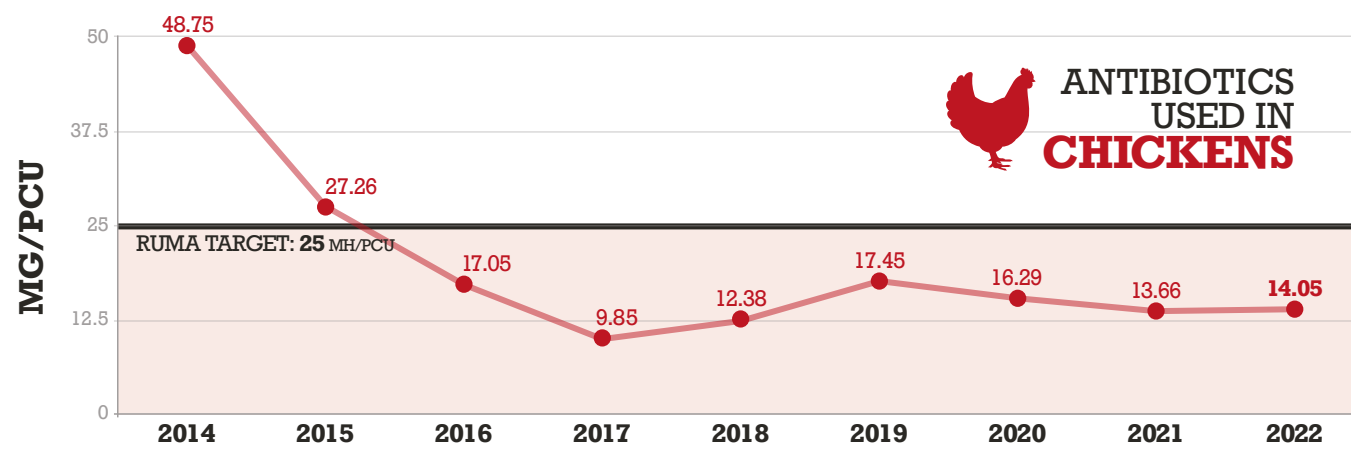
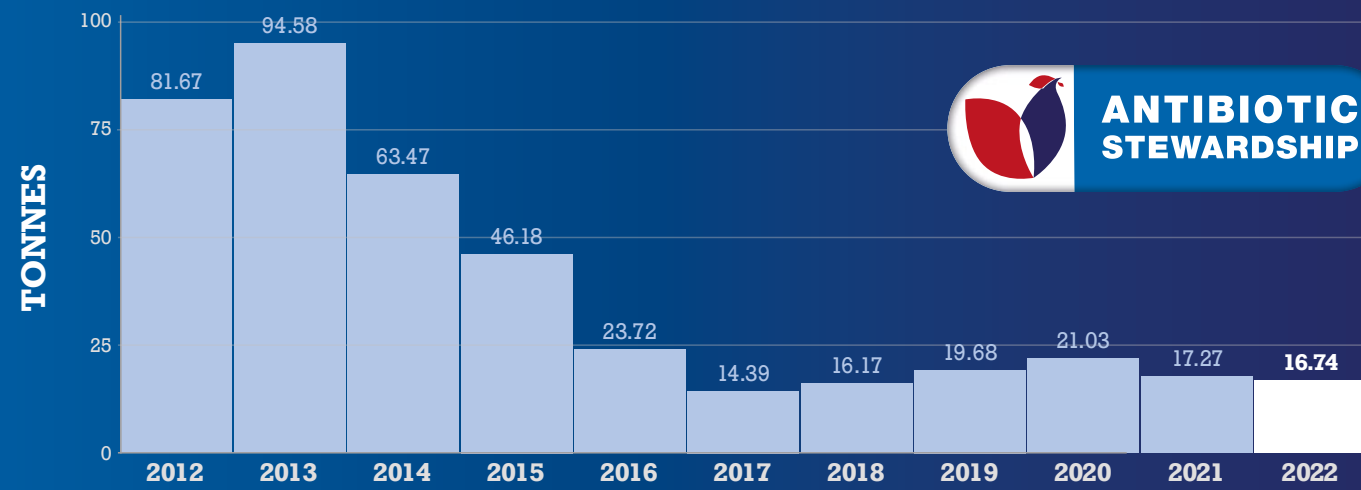


DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN BIRD HEALTH & WELFARE

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 and is about so much more than just reduction targets. Zero use is neither ethical nor sustainable because it goes against a farmer's duty of care to address any health and welfare issues.

TOTAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS 2012-22



KEEPING OUR ANTIBIOTICS EFFECTIVE

The BPC membership continue to remain 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.

Whilst BPC members continue to challenge antibiotic use levels and strive for its further reduction, it is important that birdkeepers do treat their birds under strict veterinary direction if required to ensure the health and the welfare of their livestock is not compromised.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship Group are committed to sharing best practice experience across the industry.

The stewardship group recognises that sharing best practice in a non-competitive manner is key to not only reducing overall antibiotic usage but also preserving the effectiveness of the limited number of antibiotic licenced for use in poultry species.

Preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics is critical to the long-term sustainability of the industry.

As new alternate management practices and therapies come to market, these will be critically assessed and the benefits and experiences gained shared across the sector. The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship group believe this is key to continuous improvement in the sector.

RUMA
The RUMA Targets Task Force (TTF)



BPC Antibiotic Stewardship use the RUMA TTF findings for their targets.

Visit: ruma.org.uk/ruma-targets-task-force/

A DUTY OF CARE: THE ROLE OF CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship follows the World Health Organisation guidelines on the use of Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs). BPC members have reduced the use of CIAs by **98.7%**.

The UK poultry meat industry uses the highest priority CIAs only as a 'last resort.' No preventative treatments are administered.

Macrolides and Fluoroquinolones are only prescribed by the supervising veterinarian following a detailed investigation into the causal problem and after alternative options for treatment have been explored.

No fluoroquinolones were used in chickens in 2022 but a single breeder flock and some meat turkeys were treated on the advice of veterinary surgeons following full investigations, including antimicrobial sensitivity testing.

Macrolides were prescribed as a last resort under the direction of veterinarians to treat a specific bacterial infection that posed a risk to bird welfare.

IN 2022 MEMBERS OF THE BPC ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP USED:

FLUOROQUINOLONES

0.001 TONNES

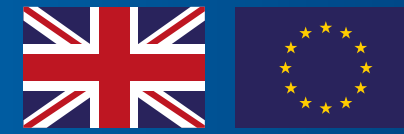
No fluoroquinolones were used in chicken meat production in 2022.

POLYMYXINS

0 KG

MACROLIDES

0.034 TONNES



A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR UK-EU TRADE

A level playing field for UK-EU trade recognises our standards, backs our farmers and producers, and ensures safe, affordable, nutritious food for all.



The safe and responsible use of antibiotics is an integral part of our drive for excellence in bird health and welfare – we have established ourselves as the 'pathfinders' for the rest of the food and farming sectors in the UK and across the world.



Nearly a billion birds are reared for food every year in the UK. Our farming and animal welfare standards are at the heart of British poultry meat sector's contribution to feeding the nation.



We do not compromise on our welfare standards. Imported poultry must meet British standards as condition of entry. That is what a fair and level approach to import checks with our biggest and most important trading partner guarantees.



Our producers have worked hard to build a food system that people trust and value, ensuring high standards of production from farm to fork.



BRITISH POULTRY COUNCIL

The British Poultry Council is the trade association for those involved in the production of poultry meat - chicken, turkey, duck, and goose - in the UK.

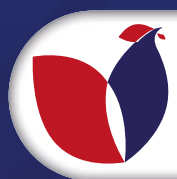
Our member businesses account for 85% of the production in this country and cover the whole food chain: breeding, hatching, growing, slaughter, processing, and packing.

BPC members feed the nation. Over a billion birds a year are reared to standards consumers trust and value.



CONTACT US

Visit britishpoultry.org.uk and follow [@britishpoultry](https://twitter.com/britishpoultry) and our [#FoodOnEveryTable](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FoodOnEveryTable) campaign to find out more.



**ANTIBIOTIC
STEWARDSHIP**