



BPC Antibiotic Stewardship Report

JUNE 2017





bpc

ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

OUR MISSION

To ensure sustainable use of antibiotics; to protect the health and welfare of our birds, to safeguard the efficacy of antibiotics, and to produce food consumers trust.

BIG ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE POULTRY MEAT INDUSTRY



STOPPED prophylactic
use of antibiotics

STOPPED use of Colistin

NEW ANTIBIOTIC STANDARDS
for Red Tractor Poultry Assurance



RESULTING IN A
71%

**Reduction in the total use
of antibiotics from 2012-2016**

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

“Through our antibiotic stewardship, we are continuously reviewing our on-farm management practices to ensure sustainable use of antibiotics throughout our supply chain.

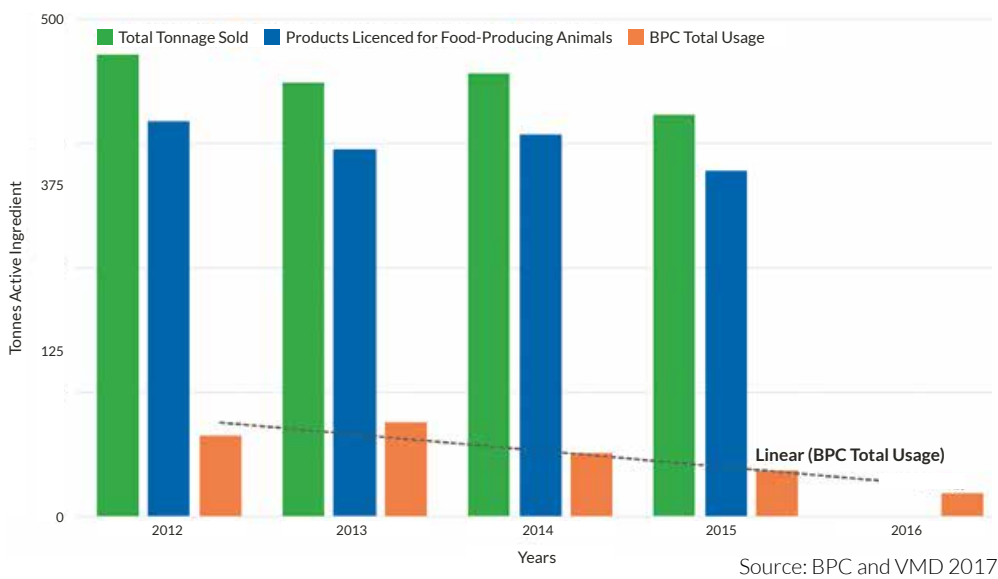
Our farmers and veterinarians need antibiotics in their toolbox to treat sick birds - zero use is not an option. Sustainable use of antibiotics is about so much more than reduction targets, and we are proud to have begun that journey. We will safeguard the efficacy of antibiotics as part of our sustainable food production, we will protect the health and welfare of our birds, and we will feed the nation.”

John Reed, Chairman, BPC

ANTIBIOTICS USED BY THE UK POULTRY MEAT SECTOR

- » **IN 2016**, the poultry meat sector used 23.72 tonnes of antibiotics and achieved a 71% reduction in the net use of antibiotics compared to 2012.
- » **IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS**, poultry meat production has increased by 11% (1.79m tonnes in 2016).

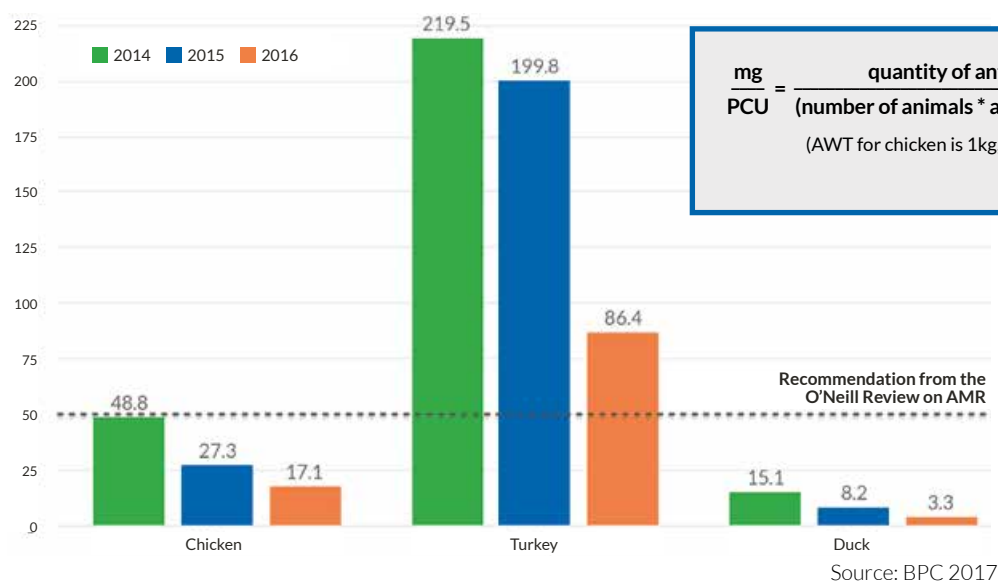
TONNES OF ANTIBIOTICS SOLD OR USED



In 2015, the industry used only 13% of the total antibiotics licenced for use in food producing animals as compared to 21% in 2012.

Antibiotic use in animals is measured in milligrams per population correction unit (mg/pcu), the standard methodology used across EU member states to calculate antibiotic use in food producing animals.

MG/PCU OF ANTIBIOTICS USED IN CHICKENS, TURKEYS, DUCKS



$$\text{mg PCU} = \frac{\text{quantity of antibiotic sold (tonnes)}}{(\text{number of animals} * \text{average weight at treatment})} * 1000$$

(AWT for chicken is 1kg, for turkeys 6.5 kg and for ducks 1.75 kg*)
*BPC derived

Turkeys are more susceptible to enteric issues as compared to any other species and have fewer licenced antibiotic products available that are effective in treating infections.

The turkey sector has made great strides and achieved an 83% reduction in the use of Fluoroquinolones and 61% reduction in overall antibiotic use in the last two years.



ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

OUR ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship ensures sustainable use of antibiotics; to protect the health and welfare of our birds, to safeguard the efficacy of antibiotics, and to produce food consumers trust.

As a result of BPC Antibiotic Stewardship, set up in 2011, the poultry meat sector became the first UK livestock sector to pioneer a data collection mechanism and share antibiotic usage data with the government's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

In the last six years, poultry meat industry has lead the way in understanding its own use of antibiotics and its impact as well as sharing best practice on the sustainable use of antibiotics with other livestock sectors. Data collected by the BPC is published every year as part of the UK-Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance (UK-VARSS) report.



BPC ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

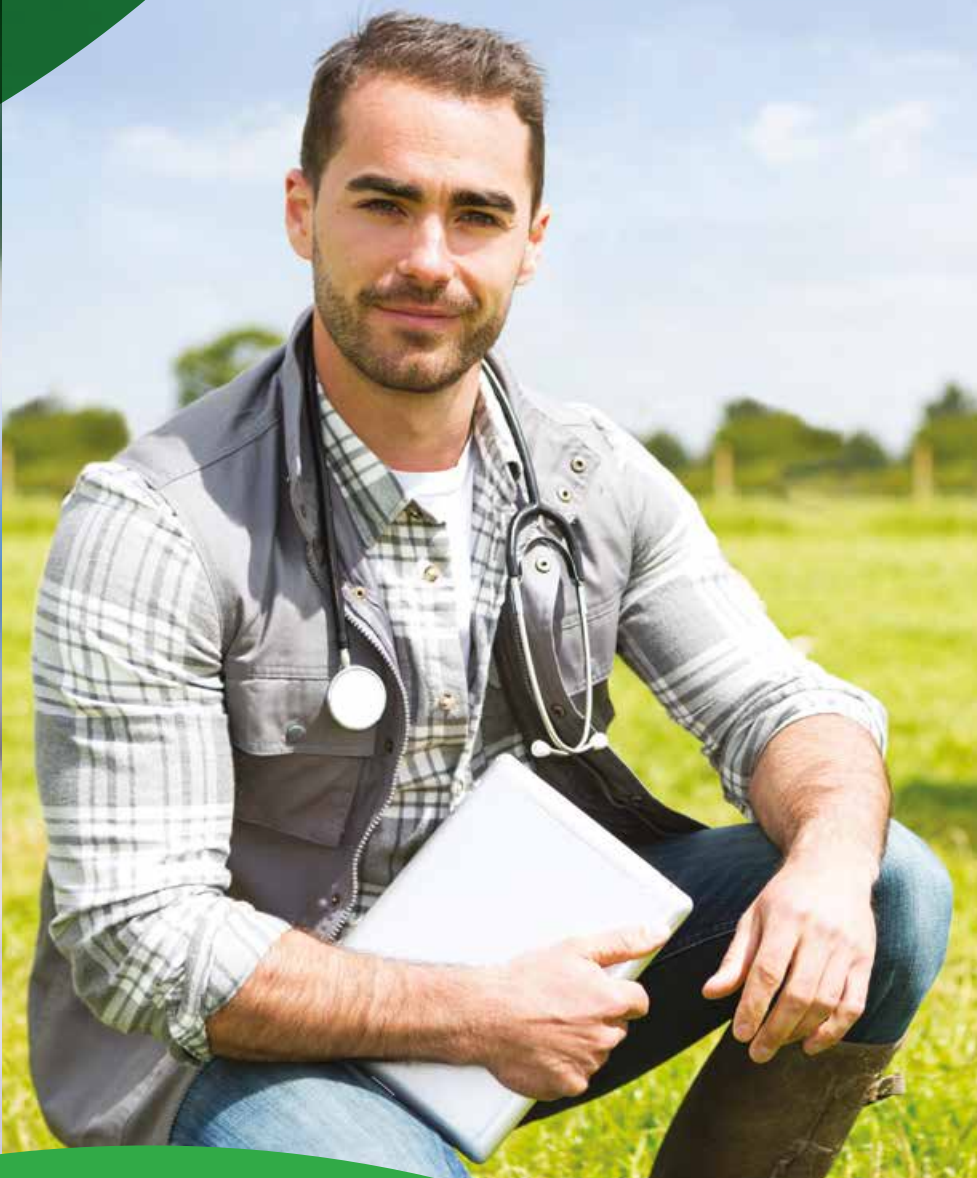
- » Stopped prophylactic use of antibiotics
- » Restricts the use of antibiotics classified as highest priority critically important by the WHO
- » Banned the use of third and fourth generation Cephalosporins in 2012
- » Stopped using Colistin in 2016
- » Only uses Fluoroquinolones and Macrolides as a last resort
- » Achieved a 71% reduction in total antibiotic use from 2012-2016

OUR SUCCESS

The success of BPC Antibiotic Stewardship is the result of its committed and professional workforce, which ensures that antibiotic therapies are used with good animal husbandry techniques 'only when necessary' and under the direction of a veterinarian.

An openness in the sector to accept change, encourage innovation and share best practice has taken BPC Antibiotic Stewardship from strength to strength.

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship is based on the successful implementation of the three R's (Replace, Reduce and Refine), supported by the principles of animal husbandry, hygiene and stockmanship.



THE THREE R's

Replace, Reduce and **Refine** are the cornerstones of our stewardship and are implemented by our people at every step of the production chain.

REPLACE

Review and replace antibiotics used where effective alternatives are available.

REDUCE

Reducing the number of birds receiving treatment, through systems based on risk assessments.

REFINE

Continue to refine existing strategies, using data collection.

THE 5 FREEDOMS OF HUSBANDRY

- » **FREEDOM** from hunger and thirst
- » **FREEDOM** from discomfort
- » **FREEDOM** from pain, injury and disease
- » **FREEDOM** to express normal behaviour
- » **FREEDOM** from fear and distress

THE 3 ESSENTIALS OF STOCKMANSHIP

- » **KNOWLEDGE** of animal husbandry
- » **SKILLS** in animal husbandry
- » **PERSONAL QUALITIES** of the stockman



CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

FOLLOWING WHO GUIDELINES ON CIAs

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship follows the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on the use of Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs) as it recognises the importance of these classes of antibiotics in human medicine.

The UK poultry meat industry uses the highest priority critically important antibiotics only as a 'last resort'. The use of Macrolides and Fluoroquinolones is permitted only after consultation with the supervising veterinarian after alternative options have been explored to prevent a bird welfare issue.

THE UK POULTRY MEAT SECTOR HAS:

- » Stopped using 3rd and 4th generation Cephalosporins since 2012
- » Stopped using Polymyxins (Colistin) since 2016
- » Minimised the use of CIAs in the last five years

WHAT ARE CIAs?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) categorises five classes of antibiotics as 'highest priority critically important for human medicine' which means that they are the sole or one of the limited available therapies to treat serious bacterial infections in people.

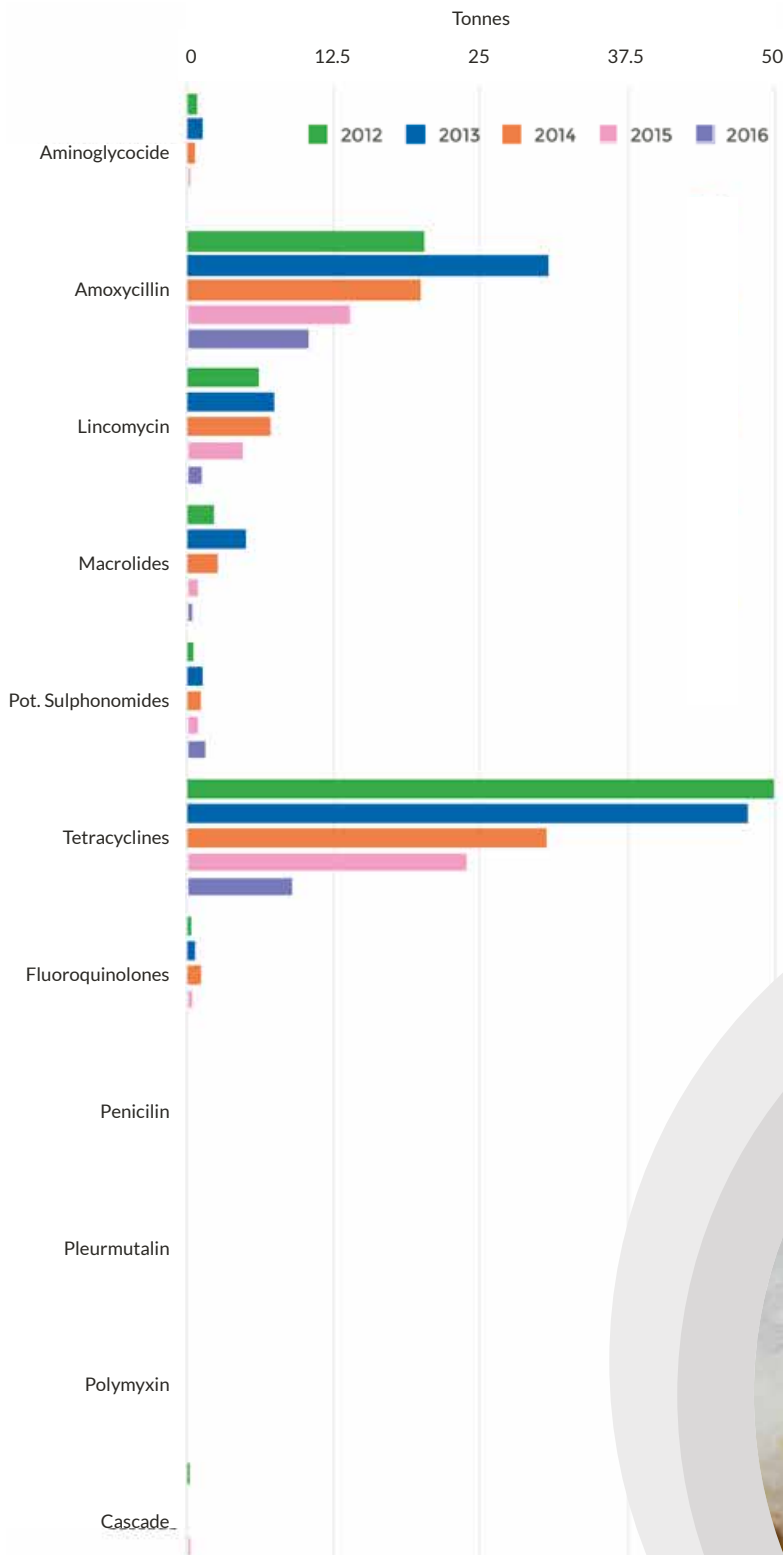
These include: Fluoroquinolones, Cephalosporins (3rd and higher generation), Macrolides, Polymyxins and Glycopeptides.

USE OF ANTIBIOTIC CLASSES

2012-2016

Out of the ten classes of antibiotics used by the sector, over half of the classes show significant reduction in usage between 2012-2016.

This is a result of the high level of commitment and professionalism displayed by poultry meat farmers and veterinarians in implementing the stewardship principles.



72%
REDUCTION
in the use of (CIA)
Fluoroquinolones



77%
REDUCTION
in the use of (CIA)
Macrolides



48%
REDUCTION
in the use of
Amoxicillin



82%
REDUCTION
in the use of
Tetracyclines





DELIVERING CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

With poultry being almost half of the meat UK eats, BPC Antibiotic Stewardship has a crucial role in the sustainable use of antibiotics to protect the health and welfare of our birds and safeguarding the efficacy of antibiotics.



Clinical governance is prescribing the most appropriate treatment for the birds in our care without comprising bird health and welfare.



Stewardship prioritises the health of the birds without the need for therapeutic antibiotic intervention and ensures successful delivery of the first principles of animal husbandry, hygiene, and stockmanship.

Our clinical governance approach includes antibiotic therapies as part of a 'toolkit' available to attending veterinarians, to support bird health and alleviate pain and suffering.

While leading the way in preserving the efficacy of antibiotics for the control of bacterial infections, BPC Antibiotic Stewardship aims to continuously improve its clinical governance approach. It collects and monitors usage of all antibiotic classes in the poultry meat industry to promote and apply best practice throughout the supply chain. As part of our clinical governance approach, any use of a CIA such as Fluoroquinolones or Macrolides is reported in detail to the BPC including the case history and outcome of the treatment.

MAKING AN IMPACT

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship has been highly successful in driving best practice across the industry. Our farmers and veterinarians are setting an example for others around the world to follow through sustainable use of antibiotics and upholding UK's position at the forefront of international efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

The British poultry meat industry is proud to be among the world leaders for knowledge and practice on effectively managing the use of antibiotics, protecting the health and welfare of birds, safeguarding the efficacy of antibiotics while producing food that consumers can trust.

While the level of antibiotics used in UK poultry meat production is at a four-year low, we have also

significantly reduced the use of highest priority antibiotics that are critically important for humans.

We are confident that by working with the Government, the poultry meat sector can continue stepping-up its efforts towards sustainable use of antibiotics and fully demonstrate the 'One Health' approach set out by the UN High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance.



OUR NEXT CHALLENGE

Through the stewardship initiative, the British Poultry Council will examine the link between antibiotic use and resistance in poultry production chain, and build our knowledge of antimicrobial resistance - which poses a challenge to human and animal health.

We will ensure that BPC Antibiotic Stewardship helps create a sustainable change across the industry, so that we can meaningfully contribute to the global debate on antimicrobial resistance.

In the next couple of years, we will be building on our successes and will continue working closely with our members (representing 90% of UK poultry meat production) to better understand and control why

and when antibiotics are used and in what quantity. Then we will transparently communicate our actions and share best practice on sustainable use.

Through more coordinated action between poultry meat farmers, processors and the scientific community, as well as policy makers at local, regional, national and global levels, we will continue preserving the efficacy of our antibiotics.



ABOUT THE BRITISH POULTRY COUNCIL (BPC)

The British Poultry Council is the trade association for poultry meat industry in the UK. We represent companies from primary breeding, through growing, to slaughter and processing, and covering chicken, turkey, duck, and goose.

In 2015, the poultry meat sector made a £4.6 billion gross value added contribution to UK GDP, and directly employed 37,700 people. The British poultry meat sector is feeding the nation with safe, nutritious, and affordable food. From two and half thousand farms across the UK our skilled and dedicated farmers grow nearly 1 billion birds every year, to standards that are among the best in the world.

BPC is a member of the Responsible Use of Medicines Alliance in Agriculture (RUMA). For more information visit www.ruma.org.uk

O'Neill Review on AMR: Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally www.amr-review.org, May 2016.

CONTACT US

Web: www.britishpoultry.org.uk



[@britishpoultry](https://twitter.com/britishpoultry)

Email: mburnett@britishpoultry.org.uk
skaul@britishpoultry.org.uk

