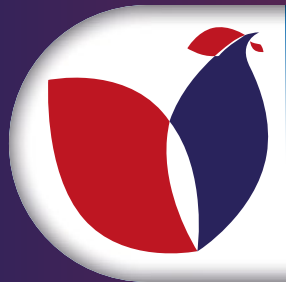


**ANTIBIOTIC  
STEWARDSHIP**

# REPORT 2024





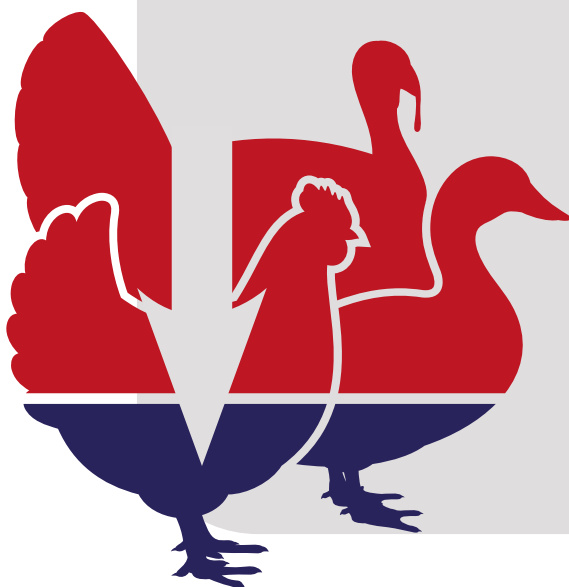
**ANTIBIOTIC  
STEWARDSHIP**

## REPORT 2024

### 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 81%.



**81%**  
**REDUCTION**  
IN TOTAL USE  
OF ANTIBIOTICS  
SINCE 2012

# POULTRY'S PART IN THE BIGGER PICTURE

British poultry is half the meat the nation eats, and BPC member businesses are proud to play a vital role in feeding people safe, affordable, nutritious food that tackles the inequalities that define a changing climate.

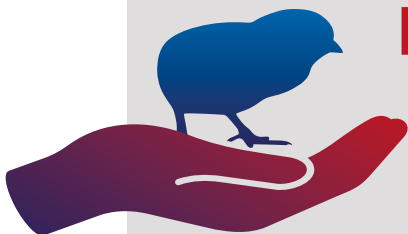
Part of that role is a responsibility to deliver excellent animal health and welfare, and it is one BPC members take incredibly seriously.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship is at the core of British poultry meat producers' commitment to progress. It has played a crucial part in driving positive change.

Working together in a pre-competitive manner, we monitor data and prioritise transparency to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of antibiotics, safeguarding their efficacy so we can continue producing food that people trust and value.

**98.9%**  
**REDUCTION**

**IN MEDICALLY  
IMPORTANT  
ANTIBIOTICS  
SINCE 2012**



# A GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** poses a threat to local, national, and global food security. It puts a strain on the effectiveness of treatment and risks both animal and human health, causing great economic loss and food waste.

No single country can fight AMR alone, which is why BPC are delighted to play a small part of the global effort by endorsing the **International Poultry Council's Antimicrobial Stewardship Principles**. You can [read them here](#).

These define the outcomes our international community aims to deliver, an architecture for stewardship at the highest level.

Levelling the playing field on antibiotics to promote collaboration and transparency, plus responsible use, is crucial to the sustainability of the global poultry industry.

Setting out the efforts of the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship in a global context, we celebrate that we share the same values as colleagues around the world when it comes to the importance of understanding, managing, and communicating the use of antimicrobials in poultry meat production.

There are several challenges we face as an international community and there is plenty of work to be done. But that so many of us are on the same page, understanding the impact of our activities and wanting to take the next step forward together to mitigate them, warrants our endorsement.



## A ONE HEALTH APPROACH

BPC's insights from May's **"The World Together Solving the Antibiotic Emergency"**, hosted by The Royal Society and UK Government:

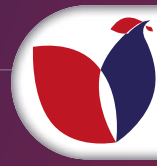
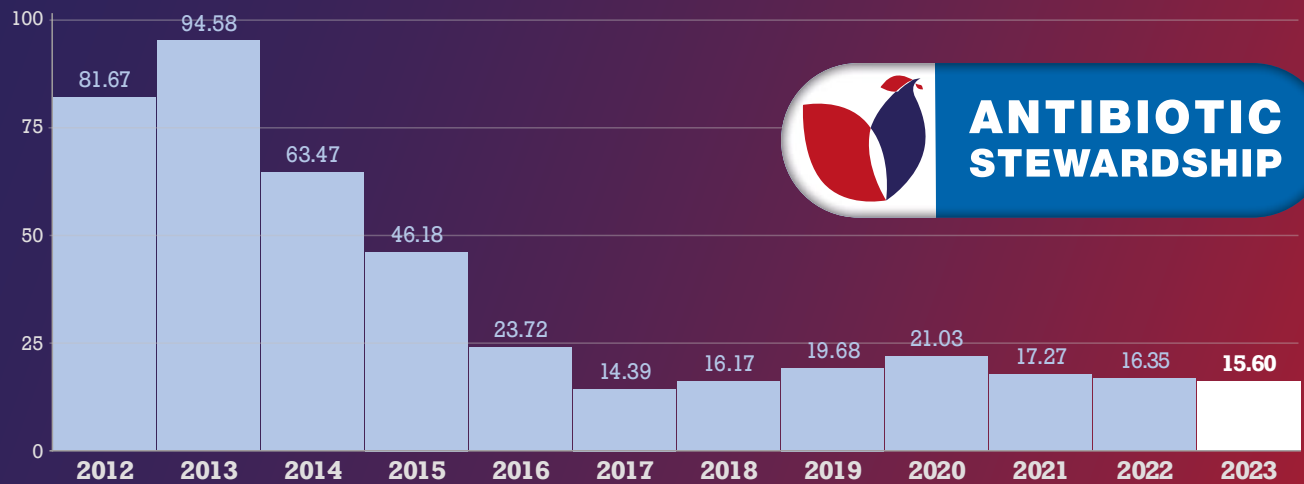
- People to access the safe and effective antibiotics treatments that they need.
- Animals to access the safe and effective antibiotics treatments that they need.
- Environment to be protected from antibiotic pollution.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship understands the vital role we play, working together across all sectors and collaborating at local, national, and global levels, in protecting and transforming outcomes for the world's most vulnerable.

With the UK Government now announcing up to **£85 million in Official Development Assistance** funding for AMR, we see the power in collaboration. We are hopeful we can all, around the world, make a difference in mitigating AMR beyond this high-level meeting.

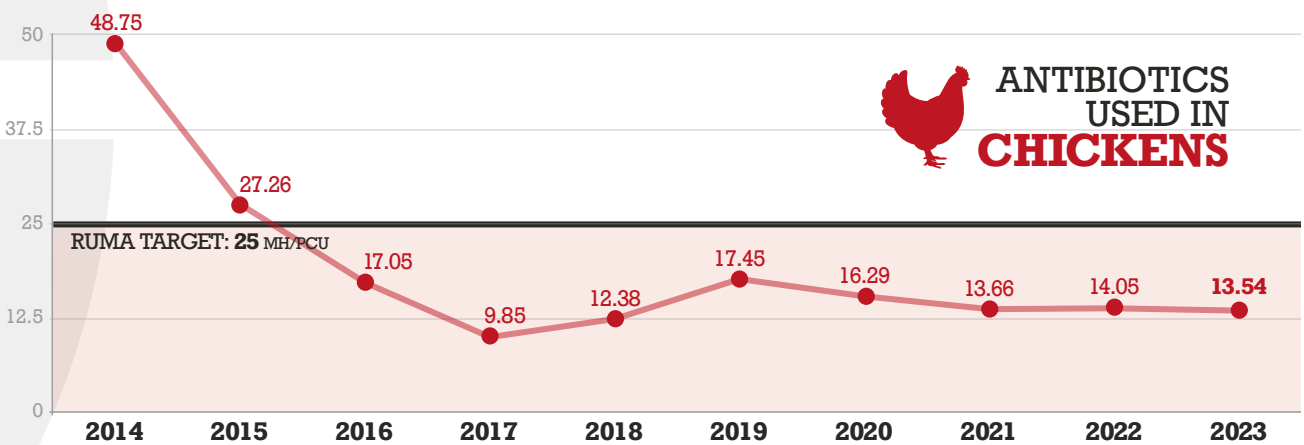
# TOTAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS 2012-23

TONNES

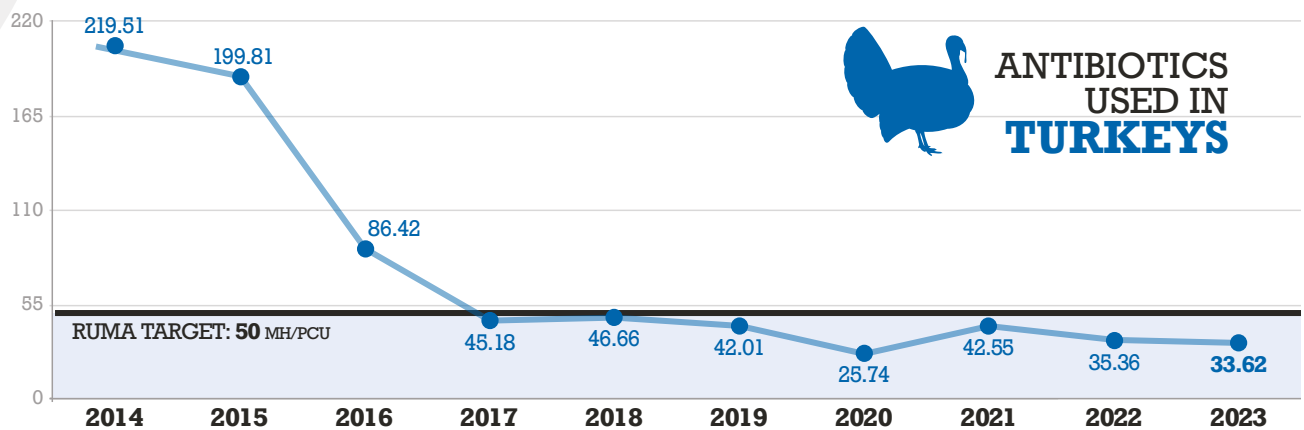


**ANTIBIOTIC  
STEWARDSHIP**

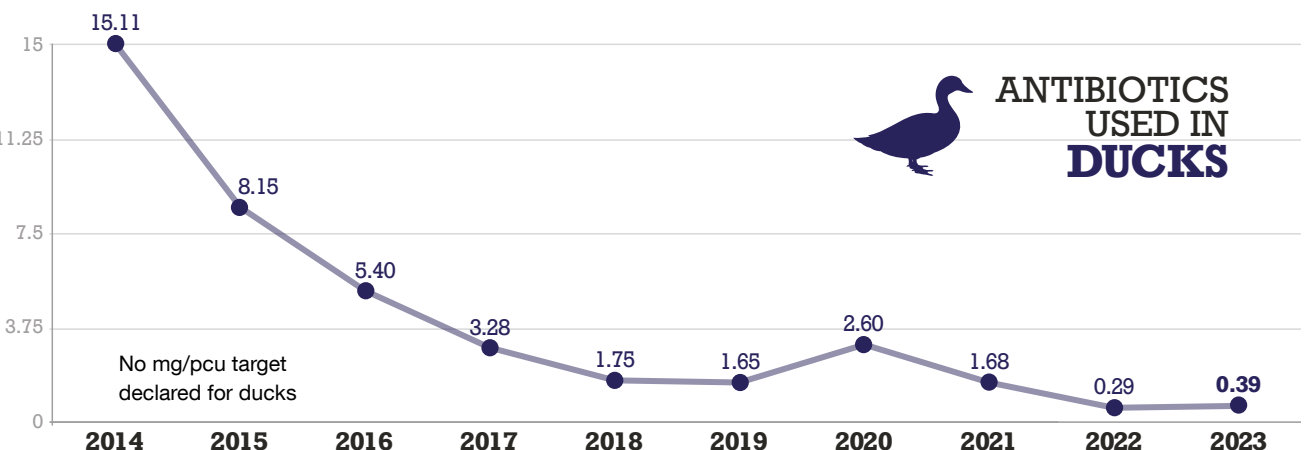
MG/PCU



MG/PCU



MG/PCU



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

# A DUTY OF CARE: THE ROLE OF MEDICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

BPC Antibiotic Stewardship follows the World Health Organisation guidelines on the use of **Medically Important Antibiotics** (MIAs). BPC members have reduced the use of MIAs by **98.9%**.

The UK poultry meat industry uses the highest priority MIAs 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.

When fluoroquinolones are prescribed, the vet submits reason for use to the Stewardship.

BPC members continue to challenge antibiotic usage levels and strive to further reduce it. Nevertheless, it is important that birdkeepers treat their birds under strict veterinary direction if required to ensure the health and the welfare of their livestock is not compromised.

## IN 2023 **BRITISH POULTRY PRODUCERS USED:**

### MACROLIDES

**0.026** TONNES **26** KG

### FLUOROQUINOLONES

**0.005** TONNES **5** KG

### POLYMYXINS

**0** TONNES **0** KG

# STEWARDSHIP AS COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The BPC membership continue to remain under target. Any fluctuation in figures demonstrate the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship's approach to treatment in real time, striving to keep antibiotics fit for purpose when they are deemed necessary to use.

The BPC Antibiotic Stewardship are committed to sharing best practice experience across the industry. The Stewardship 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 antibiotics licenced for use in poultry species.

Preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics is critical to the long-term sustainability of the industry. Stewardship promotes collective responsibility. Members of the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship are able to collaborate by sharing insights and experience to ensure best practice across the sector.

These cover various aspects, from investment to veterinary input to nutraceutical use. As new alternate management practices and therapies come to market, these also will be critically assessed by the group, and the benefits and experiences gained shared across the sector.

In pooling our knowledge and expertise, putting them in the context of the continuous improvement towards the outcomes we want to see, the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship creates a feedback loop: trends are spotted, ideas are implemented, and practices refined based on what the data shows.

This approach not only enhances our effectiveness, but also contributes to the long-term resilience and sustainability of the British, and global, poultry meat industry.

## THE AMR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM

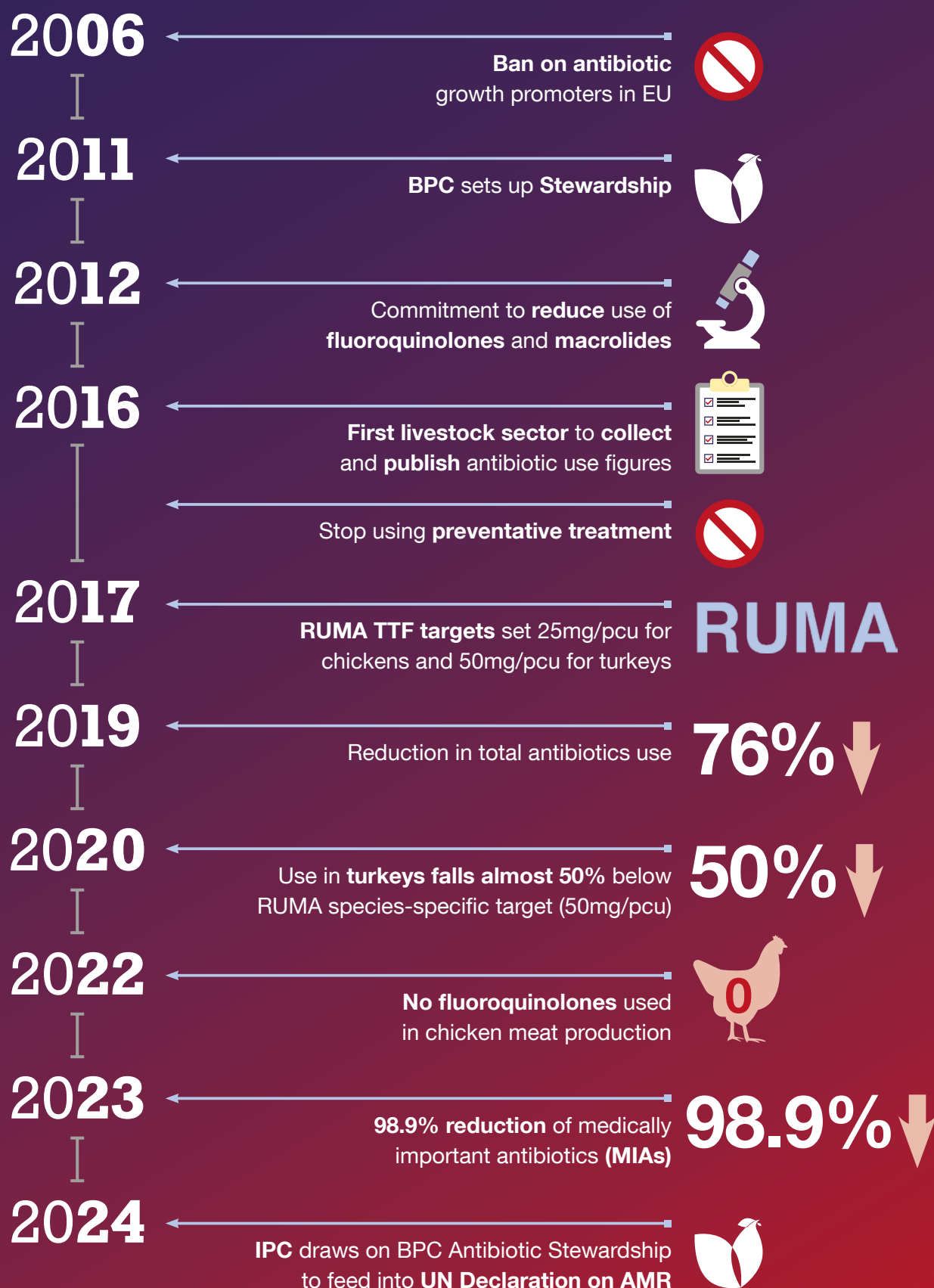
Established and facilitated by the FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA, the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform is in the process of finalising a statement on possible recommendations for inclusion in the 2024 UN Declaration on AMR.

The International Poultry Council (IPC) is a member of the Platform and is feeding in where possible, drawing on the experience and insights of its member organisations, including BPC.



# CARVING THE PATH FOR SUCCESS

Driving improvements through partnership and collaboration.





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# DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN BIRD HEALTH AND WELFARE

Delivering excellence in bird health and welfare is the foundation of responsible use of antibiotics.

Simply aiming for ‘decreased use’ is redundant in the context of a farmer’s duty of care. However, when antibiotics are used, it is essential that they are administered safely and responsibly.

British poultry meat producers have worked hard to build a food system that people trust and value. Our farming and animal welfare standards are at the heart of our contribution to feeding the nation – this includes collecting and publishing data on antibiotics use. It is an integral part of our drive for excellence across the board

We established ourselves as ‘pathfinders’ for other food and farming sectors, both in the UK and around the world. Over a decade later, we are proud of the progress we continue to make.



# 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 80% 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 for food to standards that people trust and value.



## CONTACT US

Visit [britishpoultry.org.uk](http://britishpoultry.org.uk) and follow [@britishpoultry](https://twitter.com/britishpoultry) to find out more.

