

**ANTIBIOTIC
STEWARDSHIP**

REPORT 2026

A DECADE OF REPORTING



**BRITISH
POULTRY COUNCIL**



BPC
ANTIBIOTIC
STEWARDSHIP

REPORT 2026

This year's report marks a landmark:

Ten years since the British Poultry Council first published its Antibiotic Stewardship data in 2016. This marks the lowest ever antibiotic usage in the stewardship's history.

"A DECADE OF REPORTING 2016-2026"



In 2016, the sector made a voluntary commitment to end prophylactic antibiotic use entirely - a decision that has shaped how the whole industry operates ever since. A decade on, the scale of what has been achieved is worth pausing to reflect on.

Total antibiotic use has been cut by more than 86% from the 2012 baseline. Use of Critically Important Antibiotics - those most vital to human medicine - has been reduced by nearly 97%. Zero polymyxins use in nine consecutive years.

These are not incremental gains; they represent a fundamental shift in how the poultry meat sector approaches animal health and welfare.

Progress of this scale does not happen by accident. It is the result of sustained pre-competitive collaboration, year-on-year data collection, strict veterinary oversight, and a willingness across the supply chain to hold performance to account.

The timeline, on page 6, records how this journey has unfolded.



CONSISTENT COMPLIANCE
WITH RUMA SPECIES SPECIFIC TARGETS

2025 RESULTS AT A GLANCE

The 2026 British Poultry Council Antibiotic Stewardship Report, covering 2025 data, marks a decade of stewardship reporting and highlights sustained industry-wide progress in reducing antibiotic use across the UK poultry meat sector. The results confirm responsible antibiotic use is now standard practice, delivering major reductions while maintaining animal health and welfare.



86.4%
REDUCTION
SINCE 2012 IN TOTAL
USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

96.8%
REDUCTION
SINCE 2012 IN CRITICALLY
IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

Zero
PROPHYLACTIC
ANTIBIOTIC USE
FOR THE TENTH
CONSECUTIVE YEAR



TOTAL ANTIBIOTIC USE

- » 11.15 tonnes used in 2025.
- » Down from 13.70 tonnes in 2024.
- » Lowest level recorded in the programme's history.



USE OF CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

CIA use remains extremely low:

- » 0.088 tonnes total.
- » Fluoroquinolones: 0.001 tonnes.
- » Macrolides: 0.087 tonnes.
- » Polymyxins: 0 tonnes.

SPECIES-LEVEL PERFORMANCE (MG/PCU)



All species remain within or below RUMA targets:

- » Chickens: 9.12 mg/pcu (target 25).
- » Turkeys: 36.72 mg/pcu (target 50).
- » Ducks: 0.82 mg/pcu (no formal target).

TRANSITION TO MG/KG REPORTING

In 2025, the sector adopted **mg/kg** as its primary reporting metric, aligning with EU methodology and enabling international benchmarking:

- » mg/kg uses **slaughter liveweight** as the denominator.
- » mg/pcu and mg/kg are **not directly comparable**.
- » **Historical mg/kg data** (2016-25) is included to support trend analysis.

ANTIBIOTIC USE BY CLASS (2025)

Usage is dominated by first line medicines. This profile reflects a mature stewardship culture focused on responsible, targeted treatment:

- » **Amoxicillin**: 66.34% of total use.
- » **Tetracyclines**: 16.92%.
- » **Lincomycins & sulphonamides**: Modest shares.
- » **CIAs**: Collectively negligible.



NEXT DECADE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The sector's forward-looking priorities include:

- » Strengthening **on-farm biosecurity** to reduce disease pressure.
- » **Continued knowledge transfer** to share best practice and support continuous improvement.
- » Building robust **mg/kg trend data** for future benchmarking.
- » Enhancing UK contributions to **global AMR monitoring**.
- » Investing in training that supports **evidence-based** veterinary decision making.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

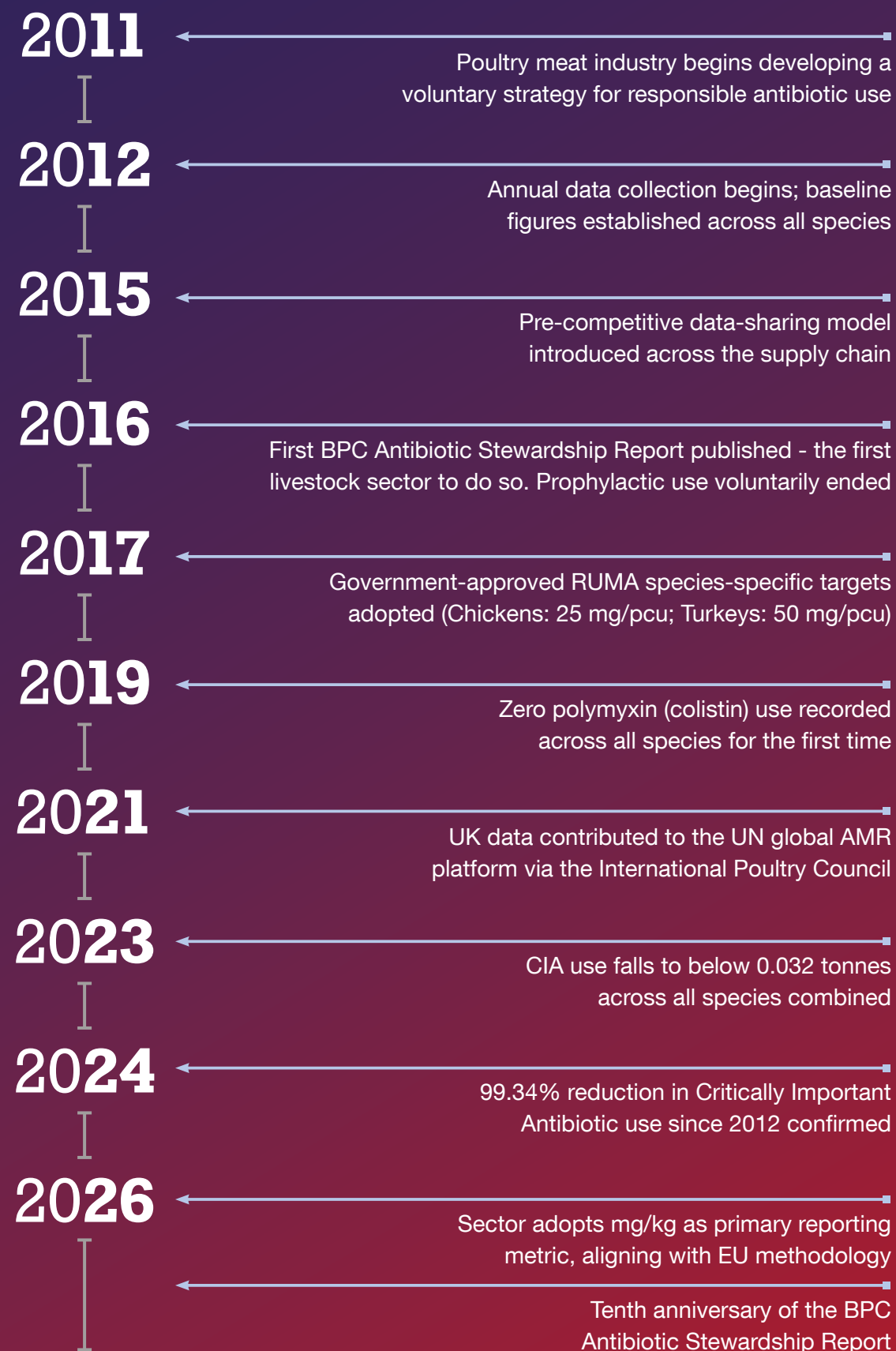
The 2026 report demonstrates a high-performing, transparent, and accountable stewardship system.

Members of the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship have delivered sustained reductions in

antibiotic use while maintaining animal health and welfare.

It enters the next decade with a strong foundation for continued leadership in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) management.

HOW THE JOURNEY HAS UNFOLDED



2025 DATA AN OVERVIEW



The data reported here covers antibiotic use across the membership of the **BPC Antibiotic Stewardship** (accounts for approx 85% of the UK poultry meat production) during 2025.

As with each preceding year, figures have been gathered through the BPC's pre-competitive data-sharing framework, verified against species production volumes, and reported transparently against RUMA targets.

Across all species, total antibiotic use in 2025 stood at 11.15 tonnes - a further reduction from 13.70 tonnes in 2024 and down 86.4% from the 2012 baseline of 81.67 tonnes.

The sector has remained at or below RUMA targets in each year of reporting.

Chicken use is the lowest level since 2017 at 9.12 mg/pcu, well inside the RUMA target of 25 mg/pcu.

Turkey use at 36.72 mg/pcu remains comfortably below the 50 mg/pcu target. Duck use, while not subject to a formal target, is tracked annually and continues at a low level.

NOTE ON THE CHANGE FROM MG/PCU TO MG/KG FOR ANTIBIOTIC USAGE REPORTING

The poultry meat sector is moving from reporting antibiotic usage in mg/pcu to mg/kg, in line with the new EU methodology.

Under the previous mg/pcu methodology, the denominator was based on standardised animal weights linked to the average age at treatment.

The revised mg/kg metric instead uses the average liveweight of birds at slaughter, providing a measure based on final production weight rather than treatment-stage weight.

As a result of this methodological change, reported antibiotic usage figures may differ

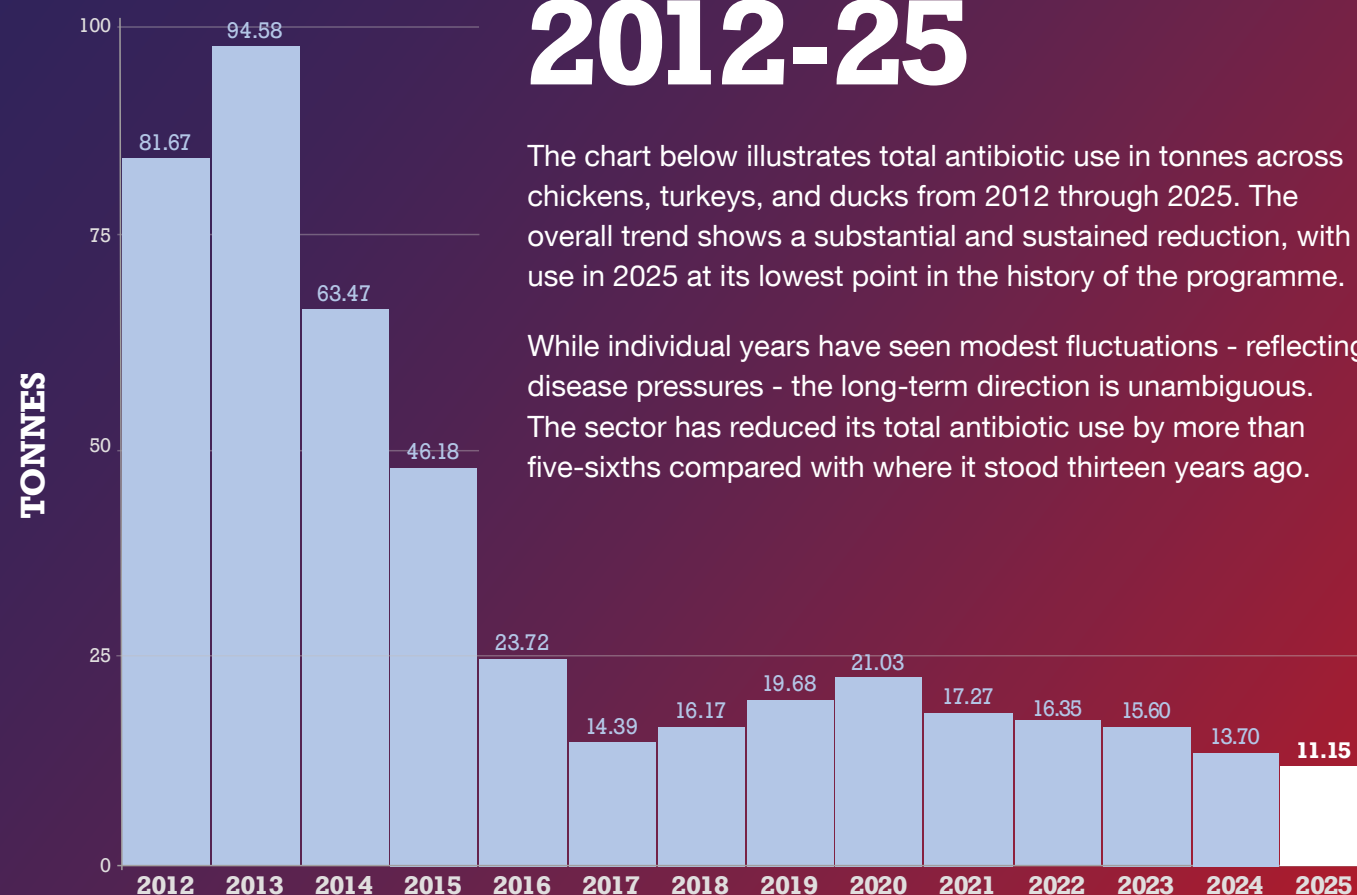
from previous years even where actual antibiotic use has remained unchanged.

This reflects the change in the calculation methodology rather than a change in usage levels.

The move to mg/kg will improve alignment with EU reporting systems and allow for more consistent international benchmarking and comparison of antibiotic usage data.

EMA REPORT: European sales and use of antimicrobials for veterinary medicine: [PDF: Annual surveillance report for 2024](#)

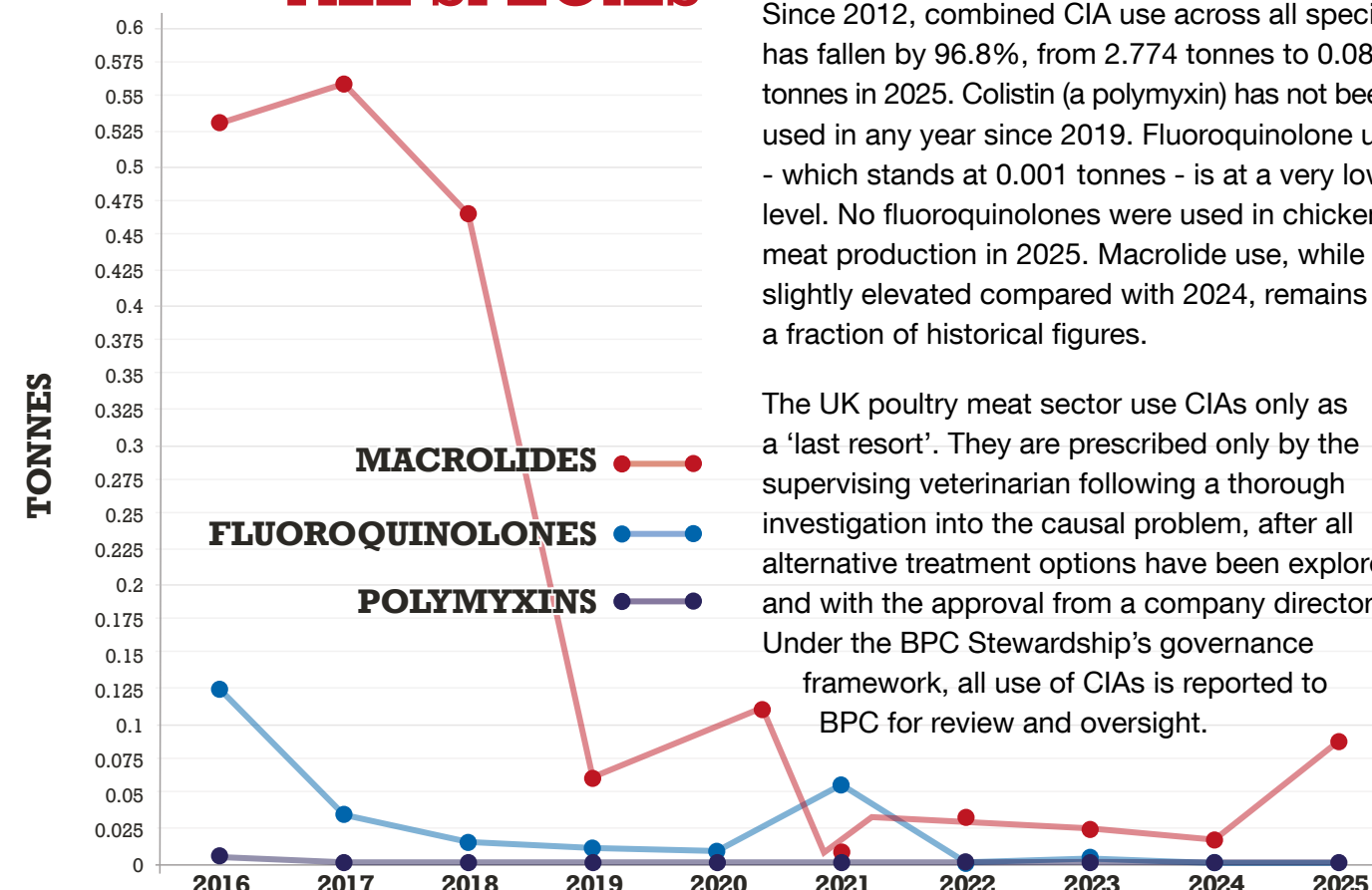
TOTAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS 2012-25



The chart below illustrates total antibiotic use in tonnes across chickens, turkeys, and ducks from 2012 through 2025. The overall trend shows a substantial and sustained reduction, with use in 2025 at its lowest point in the history of the programme.

While individual years have seen modest fluctuations - reflecting disease pressures - the long-term direction is unambiguous. The sector has reduced its total antibiotic use by more than five-sixths compared with where it stood thirteen years ago.

USE OF CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS ALL SPECIES



Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs) - comprising fluoroquinolones, macrolides, and polymyxins - carry particular significance because of their role in treating serious infections in people. Minimising their use in food-producing animals is a key objective of AMR stewardship globally, and members of the BPC Antibiotic Stewardship have made this a central commitment of responsible use.

Since 2012, combined CIA use across all species has fallen by 96.8%, from 2.774 tonnes to 0.088 tonnes in 2025. Colistin (a polymyxin) has not been used in any year since 2019. Fluoroquinolone use - which stands at 0.001 tonnes - is at a very low level. No fluoroquinolones were used in chicken meat production in 2025. Macrolide use, while slightly elevated compared with 2024, remains a fraction of historical figures.

The UK poultry meat sector use CIAs only as a 'last resort'. They are prescribed only by the supervising veterinarian following a thorough investigation into the causal problem, after all alternative treatment options have been explored and with the approval from a company director. Under the BPC Stewardship's governance framework, all use of CIAs is reported to BPC for review and oversight.

ANTIBIOTIC USE BY CLASS

Looking at the composition of antibiotic use in 2025, amoxicillin accounts for almost two-thirds of all use by weight.

This is characteristic of a sector that relies on first-line treatments rather than more highly critically important antibiotics for humans.

Tetracyclines represent the second-largest share at 17%, followed by lincomycins and potentiated sulphonamides.

The combined share of all three CIA classes - fluoroquinolones, macrolides (when used as CIAs), and polymyxins - is negligible, reflecting the sustained restrictions the sector has placed on these medicines.

ANTIBIOTIC CLASS	SHARE OF TOTAL USE	
	TONNES	%
Amoxicillin	7.397433	66.3%
Tetracyclines	1.887014	16.9%
Lincomycins	0.672310	6.0%
Potentiated Sulphonamides	0.623573	5.6%
Cascade	0.419835	3.8%
Macrolides	0.087640	0.8%
Penicillins	0.038455	0.3%
Aminoglycosides	0.019650	0.2%
Pleuromutalins	0.002388	0.0%
Fluoroquinolones	0.001768	0.0%
Polymyxins	0.000000	0.0%
TOTAL	11.150066	100%



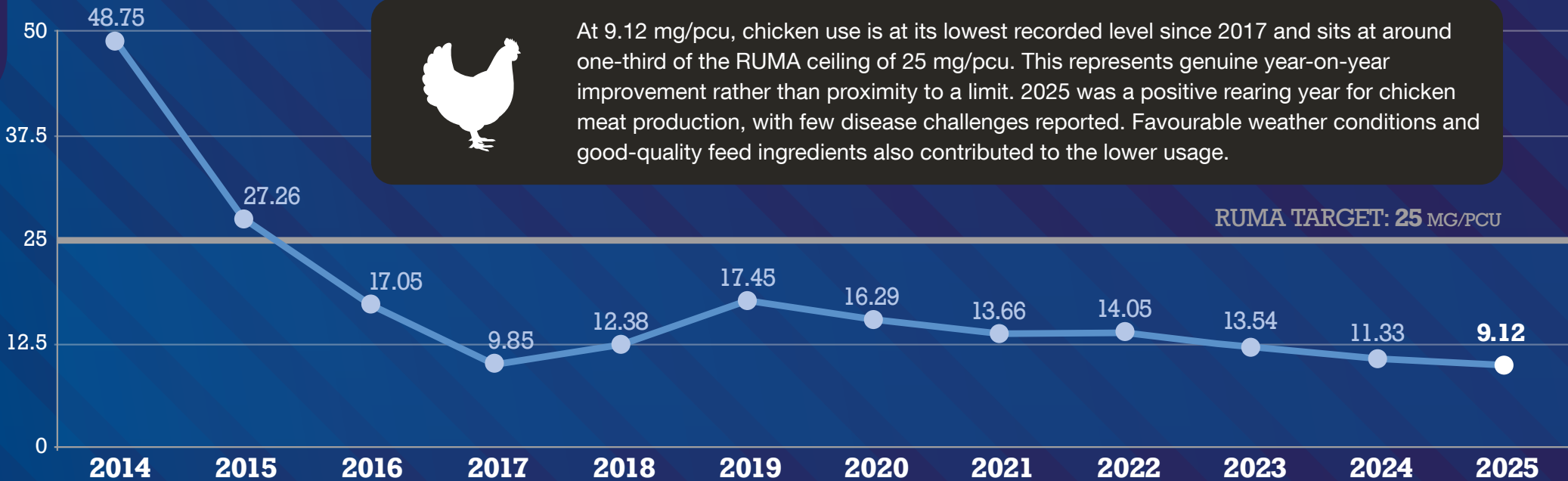
ANTIBIOTIC USE BY SPECIES - MG/PCU

For the purposes of continuity and historical comparison, antibiotic use per species is reported below in mg/pcu. This allows direct comparison with data from previous years and with the RUMA targets, which were set under this methodology.

As noted in the methodology section on page 7, mg/pcu figures from 2025 onwards should not be compared directly with mg/kg data - both series are presented separately in this report.

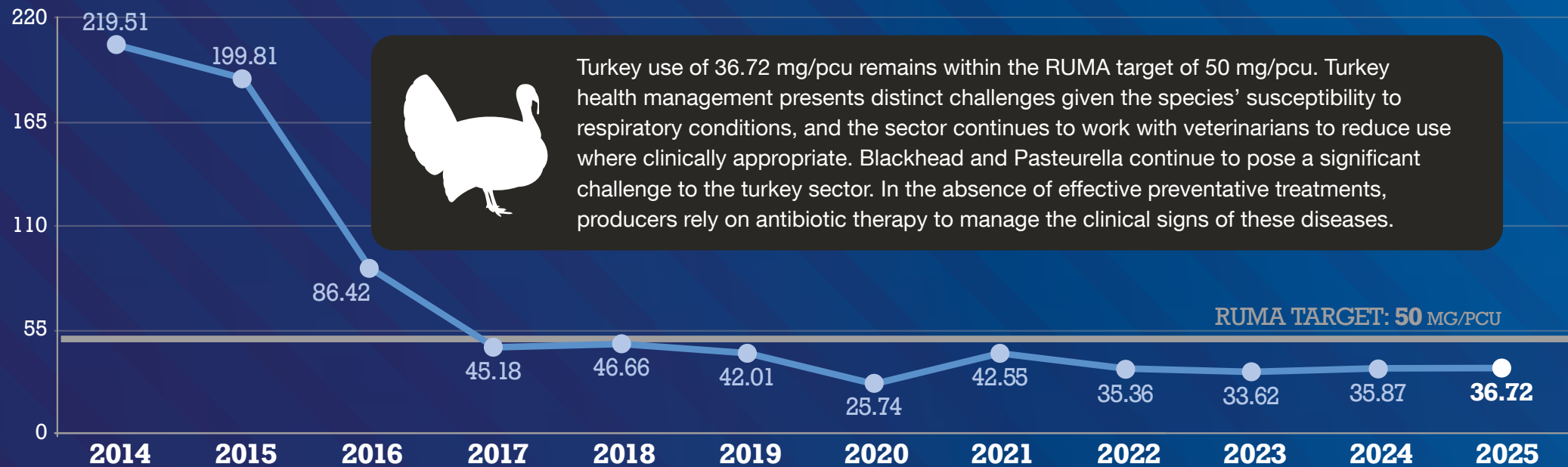
ANTIBIOTICS USED IN CHICKENS MG/PCU

ACTIVE INGREDIENT



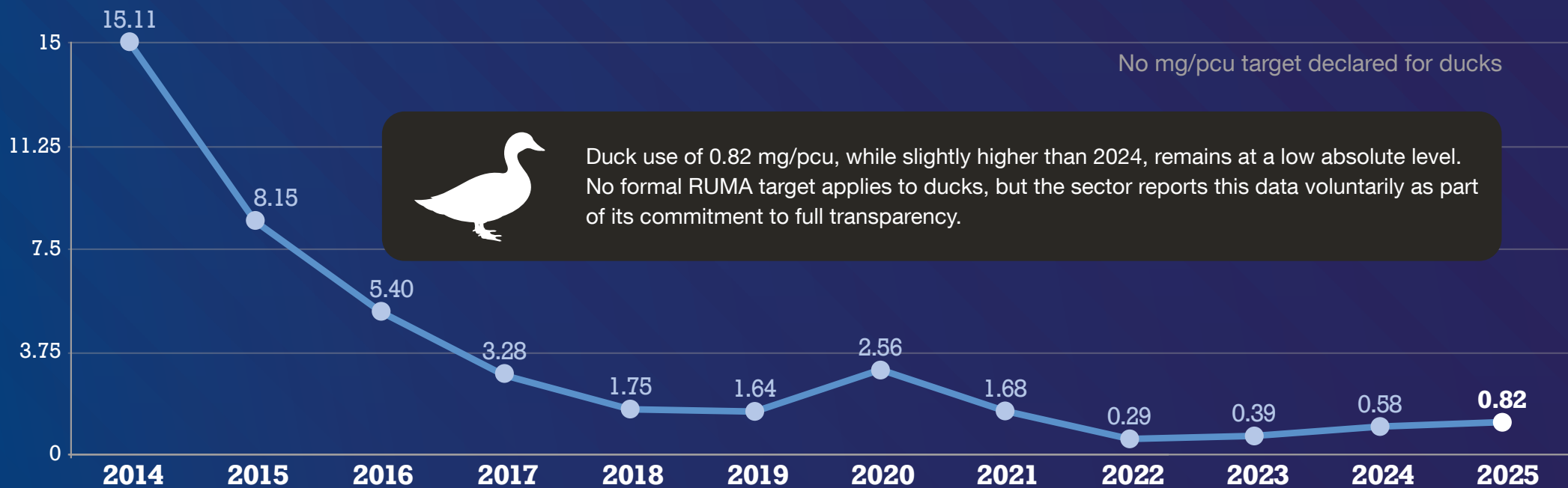
ANTIBIOTICS USED IN TURKEYS MG/PCU

ACTIVE INGREDIENT



ANTIBIOTICS USED IN DUCKS MG/PCU

ACTIVE INGREDIENT



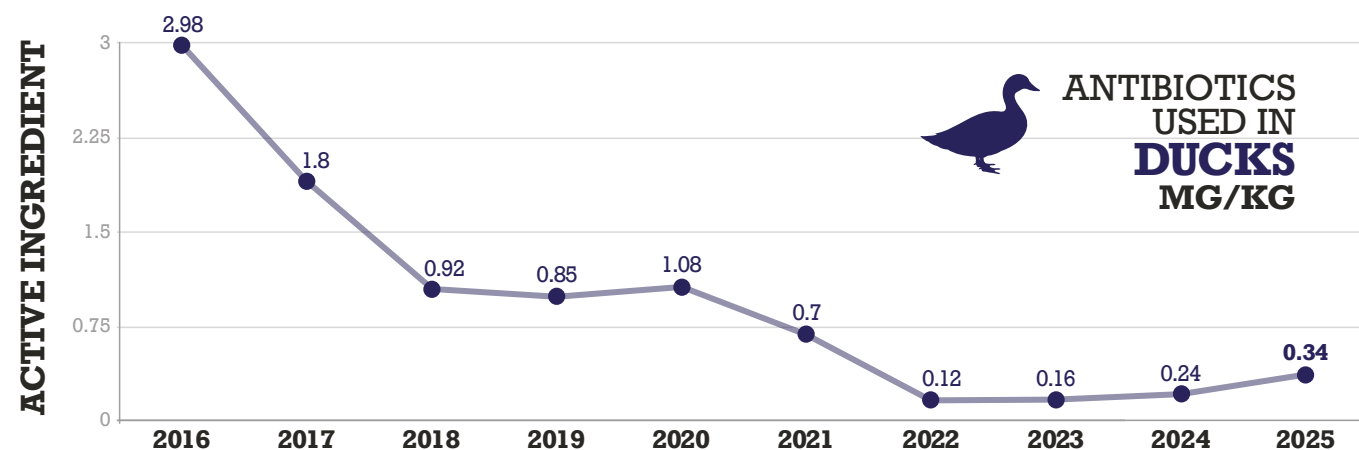
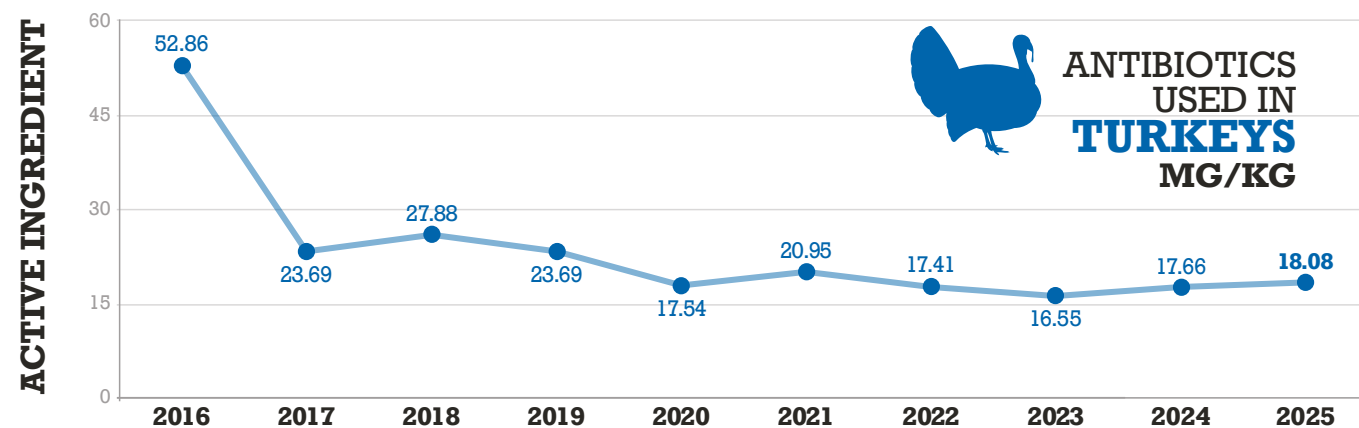
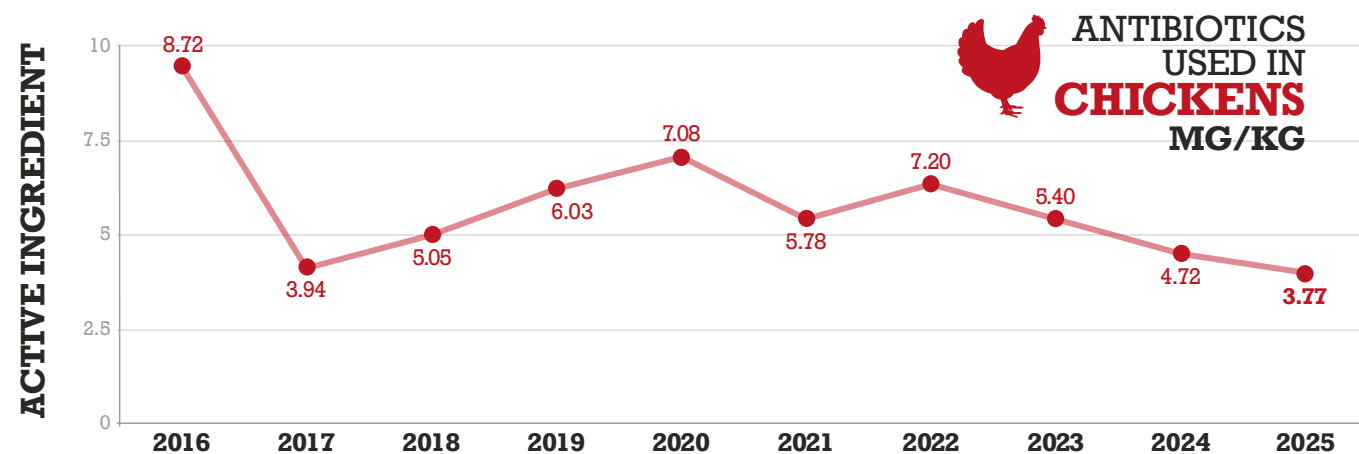
ANTIBIOTIC USE BY SPECIES - MG/KG

Alongside the mg/pcu series, 2025 sees the sector report per-species usage under the new **mg/kg metric** for the first time as its primary forward-looking measure.

This methodology, using slaughter liveweight as the denominator, is now standard across EU member states. This standard will allow the

BPC to benchmark British poultry meat performance against international comparators on a like-for-like basis.

The mg/kg series runs from 2016, when comparable data first became available. Because the two metrics use different denominators, the numbers are not directly comparable with the mg/pcu series, both are presented here to support a complete picture.



LOOKING AHEAD

Ten years of measurable, auditable progress provides a strong foundation - but the work is not finished.

Antibiotic resistance is a dynamic challenge, and the conditions that have made stewardship effective to date must be actively maintained and developed.

The sector's priorities for the period ahead include:

- Improved access to vaccines would help reduce reliance on antibiotics by preventing disease and safeguarding bird health and welfare. The poultry meat sector remains committed to further reducing antibiotic use, but continued progress will depend on the availability of effective vaccines to prevent and control disease.
- Continuing to improve on-farm biosecurity standards to reduce disease incidence at source, limiting the circumstances in which any antibiotic treatment becomes necessary.
- BPC Antibiotic Stewardship Members continue to share learnings and transfer knowledge within.
- Embedding mg/kg as the standard reporting metric and developing robust year-on-year trend data under the new methodology.
- Advancing the sector's contribution to international AMR data through the International Poultry Council and the UN's global monitoring framework.
- Investing in training and communications to ensure veterinary and farm-level decision-making continues to draw on the latest evidence and shared benchmarks.

What the past decade has shown is that genuine stewardship requires more than a target and an annual report. It requires a sector-wide culture in which responsible practice is the norm rather than the exception.

That is what the BPC's Antibiotic Stewardship data-sharing model has built - and what the next decade of reporting will continue to develop.





BRITISH POULTRY COUNCIL

The British Poultry Council is the representative body for poultry meat producers in the UK, covering chicken, turkey, duck and goose production.

BPC member companies span the full length of the supply chain - from breeding and hatching through to processing and packing - and together account for around 80% of British poultry meat output.

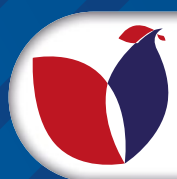
Annual antibiotic stewardship reporting has been a cornerstone of BPC membership since 2016.

The data in this report is collected, validated and published to give regulators, retailers, and the public an accurate and honest account of how antibiotics are used in British poultry meat production.



CONTACT US

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