

Bon Appétit's Policy on Antibiotics Use in Food Animals

November 18, 2003

Introduction

The declining effectiveness of antibiotics against common bacterial infections is a growing crisis in human medicine. This decline stems from heavy use of these precious medicines not just in human medicine, but also in agriculture. By some estimates, the majority of the antibiotics now used in this country are fed on a routine basis to farm animals that are not sick. Moreover, some antibiotics that are among the most potent in human medicine are being used in agriculture, raising concerns about increased bacterial resistance to these critical drugs. As a culinary company that purchases meat and poultry products, Bon Appétit is committed to helping to address the public health threat from antibiotic resistance. To achieve this objective, Bon Appétit is adopting the policy below. This policy favors or requires the purchase of meat, poultry, dairy and seafood products from animals raised with reduced amounts of antibiotics from classes of drugs approved for use in human medicine.

Bon Appétit's Antibiotic Policy

1. Bon Appétit will only purchase poultry that has been produced without the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics that belong to classes of compounds approved for use in human medicine.
2. Bon Appétit will not purchase poultry from suppliers that use fluoroquinolone antibiotics to treat sick birds.
3. Bon Appétit encourages the sustained reduction in the total use of antibiotics belonging to classes of compounds currently approved for use in human medicine for *all* food animal production. Such reductions will be viewed as a purchasing preference.
4. This policy is to be phased in by the end of June 2004.

Compliance

- **Supplier Assurance:** Every participating supplier under this policy must submit in writing their commitment to abide by Bon Appétit's Antibiotic Use Policy.

Implementation

- **Purchasing decisions:** With regards to purchasing products from food animals other than chicken, compliance to Antibiotic Policy will be a purchasing preference in supply decisions. Additional measures leading to demonstrated, sustained reductions in the use of antibiotics belonging to classes approved for use in human medicine will also be considered a purchasing preference in supply decisions for beef, pork, seafood and poultry.
- **Regular review:** It is our intention that Bon Appétit's Antibiotic Use Policy does not conflict with local government measures and that compliance is consistent with or more restrictive than local laws. This policy will be updated as guided by new scientific knowledge.

- **Industry advocate:** Bon Appétit advocates the expansion and adoption of sustainable antibiotic use both within our supply chain and within the industry as a whole.

Definitions

Antibiotic: This policy uses the term antibiotic to have the same meaning as the more technical term "antimicrobial." Antimicrobials are substances of natural or synthetic origin that are used for treatment of infection or disease that kills or inhibits the growth or multiplication of microorganisms. (*American Veterinary Medical Association Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials*, <http://www.avma.org/scienact/jtua/jtua98.asp>).

Nontherapeutic: Any use of an antibiotic as a feed or water additive for an animal in the absence of any clinical sign of disease in the animal for growth promotion, feed efficiency, weight gain, routine disease prevention, or other routine purpose. Antibiotic uses are not covered under this definition if they are for:

a) Non- routine Disease Prevention: The use of antibiotics where it can be shown that a particular disease is present on the premises or is likely to occur because of a specific, non-customary situation. (adapted from *WHO Global Principles for the Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals Intended for Food*, http://www.who.int/emc/diseases/zoo/who_global_principles.html)

b) Disease Therapy: The use of antibiotics, under the direction of a certified veterinarian, for the specific purpose of treating animals with an established disease or illness. Once the treatment is over and the animal is cured, the application of the antibiotic ceases. (Adapted from the World Veterinary Association's *Prudent Use of Antibiotics Global Basic Principles* and *Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance*, <http://www.ccar-ccra.org/agriglos-e.htm>).

Food Animal: This term used in this policy to refer to all species of farmed animals including cultivated fish and shellfish, and dairy animals.

Fluoroquinolone: A group of relatively new, highly effective antibiotics that includes the drug ciprofloxacin (Cipro) used in people and the closely related drug enrofloxacin (Baytril) used in some food animals.