

LEADERSHIP: INVOLVEMENT IN R&D / INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

Antimicrobial resistance:

Antibiotic resistant bacteria are a significant and increasing health threat. Although antibiotics are used in both human and animal medicine, the use and perceived misuse of antibiotics in agriculture continues to be a concern. The EU Commission and the UK Government is responding to this by putting in place legislative changes and targets to continue the reduction in antibiotic use in agriculture, and empower consumers through more information.

The 2016 O'Neill review, part of the Government's 5-year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) strategy, recommended reducing antibiotic use in agriculture. Agriculture accounted for 33%, and companion animals 8%, of total UK antibiotic sales in 2016. In response to the O'Neill report, the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance set up a Targets Task Force of vets and farmers to work with industry and government to set UK sector-specific antibiotic targets up to 2020.

UK Food Supply Chain: To facilitate collaborative working and co-ordination of initiatives to reduce antibiotic use in agriculture and tackle antimicrobial resistance, retailers, manufacturers and processors have come together to promote and support responsible antibiotic use and tackle antimicrobial resistance, forming the Food Industry Initiative on Antibiotics (FIIA). Premier Foods is a Board Member of the FIIA. The FIIA has agreed a common set of targets with regards to responsible use of antibiotics, and a reduction of antibiotic usage without compromising standards of animal welfare

Engagement:

We have actively engaged with various key stakeholders across the farm animal welfare agenda and this has helped us to develop our own internal thinking around how best to engage with our suppliers on farm welfare outcomes and related issues.

We have actively engaged with the following organisations:

- Compassion in World Farming
- Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW) / Chronos
- World Animal Protection
- Humane League