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POLICY ON THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS AS GROWTH PROMOTERS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The use of antibiotics is common in the livestock production around the world. Numerous researches have shown that antibiotics increase the rate and efficiency of growth in animals. The inclusion of antibiotics in animal feed at sub-lethal doses promotes the growth of beneficial microbes by depressing the growth of others in the GIT. Therefore, the use of antibiotics (all classes of antibiotics) as growth promoters is banned in animal feed to prevent Anti- antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

DIRECTIVE

The growth-promoting effects of antibiotics are undisputed, but the collateral and long-term effects that can result in AMR and other debilitating diseases are of great concern. This practice has raised trepidations about antimicrobial resistance as frequent use of antibiotics (especially at lethal doses) leads to increasing resistance in enteric bacteria that can transfer their resistance to other pathogenic bacteria.

Therefore, antibiotics cannot be used as growth promoters in livestock production.

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