

Utrecht, September 2017

Re: SDa report *Usage of Antibiotics in Agricultural Livestock in the Netherlands in 2016 - Trends and benchmarking of livestock farms and veterinarians*

Dear Sir, Madam,

It is with great pleasure that the Netherlands Veterinary Medicines Institute (SDa) presents its report *Usage of Antibiotics in Agricultural Livestock in the Netherlands in 2016*. With this report, the SDa wants to provide insight into the amounts of antibiotics used in the Dutch veal, broiler, turkey, cattle, pig and rabbit farming sectors in 2016.

Over the 2015-2016 period, the broiler (by 30.1%), turkey (by 26.5%), veal (by 5.3%), dairy cattle (by 3.2%) and pig farming sectors (by 1.9%) managed to reduce their usage of antibiotics in terms of defined daily dose animal. The usage of antibiotics in rabbit raised for food production is reported for the first time by the SDa in 2016.

In 2016 a new type of colistin resistance was identified. Colistin is prescribed for both humans and animals. The use of the polymyxins, including colistin, showed a steep 31% decline. The usage in The Netherlands is lower than the lowest benchmark for colistin, as determined by the European Medicines Agency. Third-choice antibiotics usage, specifically fluoroquinolones and third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins, was generally low in the monitored livestock sectors.

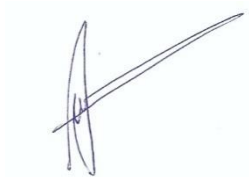
The sale of antibiotics is derived from FIDIN data. The mass of active substances sold decreased further from 58.4% to 64.4% compared to 2009 (the government-specified reference year).

The SDa has defined specific benchmark thresholds for the livestock sectors that are subjected to monitoring. Livestock farmers and veterinarians are working on lowering the use of antibiotics to the target zone. The decline in mean antibiotic use observed for 2016 was associated with only a small number of livestock farms and veterinarians moving to the target zone in most cases. In recent years, we have seen that shifts to the target zone have taken place in a number of sectors, especially in the broiler, pig and dairy cattle farming sectors. The marked shift in the broiler farming sector in 2016 is partly due to reduction of use in conventional broilers and partly to further increase in the number of slower growing broilers. The critical success factor study will have to show whether the type of chicken is a factor of importance for the use of antibiotics in the broiler farming sector. In the turkey farming sector a shift in use seems to have been taking place in 2016. The SDa presumes this trend will continue in the future.

Research is being carried out on critical success factors in the veal, broiler and pig farming sectors and among veterinarians. The results of these studies should lead to a clear action plan with further interventions. Based on sector information from recent years and the results of the critical success factor studies, the benchmark values for the veal, broiler and pig farming sectors and for veterinarians will be adjusted by the end of 2017. Due to the low usage of antibiotics in the dairy cattle farming sector and the continued small variation in use between farms, it has been decided that a study into critical success factors is not necessary.

A previous study of the SDa has shown that there is an association between antimicrobial use and the prevalence of resistance. The MARAN report publishes the figures on the prevalence of resistance in animal husbandry in June. These figures will show whether the already commenced reduction of resistance keeps pace with reduction in antimicrobial use in 2016.

On behalf of the SDa board,



Drs. F.J.M. Werner

*Chair*



Dr. H.M.G. van Beers- Schreurs

*Director*

[Attached: SDa report Usage of Antibiotics in Agricultural Livestock in the Netherlands in 2016](#)