



BANHAM POULTRY LIMITED

ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP GROUP STATEMENT

Awareness regarding antimicrobial use in farm animals continues to be discussed in the media, by consumers, retailers, government and NGO's.

Antimicrobial resistance is considered to be a major future global threat to human health. Resistance to antibiotics can be inherent resistance, by transfer of genes between bacteria, or due to the selection pressure placed upon bacteria where mutations naturally occur in antimicrobial treated populations. We have no control over inherent resistance or through gene transfer between bacteria but we do have control of antimicrobial usage whether in humans or animals.

As food producers we have a responsibility to ensure that the birds we care for are produced ethically to high standards of management and welfare under hygienic and biosecure conditions. This reduces the risk of infections and disease and therefore reduces the need for antimicrobial treatments.

Banham Poultry Ltd take a proactive approach to antimicrobial use by following RUMA principles- "Responsible Use of Medicines Alliance". In addition all breeder farms, hatcheries, broiler farms and processing plant are accredited by Red Tractor Farm Assurance. Banham Poultry Ltd approach to antibiotic usage encompasses the principle of "As much as necessary, but as little as possible" in order to safeguard bird welfare.

Banham Poultry Ltd are also active members of the British Poultry Council and represented on the BPC Antimicrobial Stewardship Group. The company work with BPC in reducing, replacing and refining antimicrobials in poultry production. The BPC membership have achieved a 44% decrease in antimicrobial usage over the past 3 years, eliminated the use of cephalosporins in poultry productions, removed routine use of fluroquinolones and actively continue to further reduce the use of "critically important antimicrobials" including macrolides and colistin.

Use of antibiotic growth promoters was banned in the European Union in 2006 and thus Banham Poultry Ltd have not used any of these products since this time. In addition use of hormones in poultry production is not permitted in the EU.

All antimicrobial use is under strict veterinary supervision and following veterinary investigations. Treatments are guided by antimicrobial sensitivity testing to ensure efficacy and responsible use.

The Banham Poultry Ltd Antimicrobial Stewardship group meet regularly to drive forward the policies developed within BPC. The company have a risk based approach to the use of antimicrobials and a commitment to continue reduce, replace and refine antimicrobial usage through its farming base. Risk is being further reduced through ongoing development, investing in state of the art breeding, hatcheries and broiler farms to allow optimal hygiene, biosecurity, health and welfare.

Martyn Bromley
Chief Executive Officer - Banham Poultry Limited
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