

G7 FARM ANTIBIOTICS



The G7 nations have unanimously pledged to take a One Health approach to tackling the growing pandemic of antimicrobial resistance.

The G7 Health Ministers' statement of 4 June 2021 recognises that human, animal, plant and environmental health are all interlinked and calls on "all governments to promptly implement measures for the sound management and reduction of inappropriate use of antimicrobials."

In light of this commitment, the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics calls on all the G7 nations to:

- Ban the preventative group treatment of antibiotics in all farm animals
- Ban on the use of growth promoters in all farm animals
- Improve animal husbandry to ensure good farm-animal health and welfare

| G7 NATION | BANS PREVENTATIVE GROUP TREATMENTS OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FARM ANIMALS | BANS USE OF ANTIBIOTIC GROWTH PROMOTERS IN FARM ANIMALS | NATIONWIDE ANTIBIOTIC USAGE LEVEL IN FARMED ANIMALS mg/kg per livestock population correction unit |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| BRITAIN | ✗ | ✓ | 31 |
| CANADA | ✗ | ✗ | 150 |
| FRANCE | ✓* | ✓ | 64.2 |
| GERMANY | ✓* | ✓ | 88.4 |
| ITALY | ✓* | ✓ | 244 |
| JAPAN | ✗ | ✗ | 229 |
| USA | ✗ | ✗ | 160.7 |

*28 January 2022 the European Union will ban all routine farm antibiotic use, including all preventative group treatments. On the 28 January 2022 the EU will also ban the importation of animal foods produced with antibiotic growth promoters.

New EU Antibiotic Policy

On 22 January 2022, EU countries, including France, Germany and Italy, will ban all routine use farm antibiotic use and all preventative group treatments. This action is expected to help cut antibiotic use significantly. Furthermore, the EU will ban the importation of animals foods produced with antibiotic growth promoters.

Action is also needed in the UK

The UK currently has the lowest farm antibiotic use in the G7. However, unless legal safeguards are put in place, new trade deals could expose the UK to cheaper meat imports from countries like the USA, Canada and Japan, which allow routine antibiotic use. Price pressures on farmers could jeopardise the UK's comparatively low levels of antibiotic use. The UK government should therefore commit to implementing legislation which at least meets EU standards on farm antibiotics.

References:

<https://www.g7uk.org/g7-health-ministers-meeting-communique-oxford-4-june-2021/>
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