ANTIBIOTIC POLICY AND STRATEGY (Poultry)

Objectives: To clearly set out the 2 Sisters Food Group and its partners’ policy on the use of antibiotics in growing chickens.

Scope: 2 Sisters’ partners (Hook2Sisters, Harry Irwins), growing departments and farms. PD Hook hatcheries and breeder farms.

Accountability: 2 Sisters’ partner vets

Responsibility: 2 Sisters’ growing departments and farms

Policy Statement:

2 Sisters Food Group is determined to be the best in its sector with regards to the production of sustainable, quality livestock grown to the high welfare and quality standards that our customers expect. We are determined to ensure that we use all medicines, including antibiotics, in a responsible manner across the farms that supply us, and lead the industry in delivering a strategy which protects both animal and human interests, now and in the future.

Strategy:

We have sought the views of interested parties, and considered the views of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and The European Medicines Authority (EMA), in developing the following strategy for the Group:

- Establish a balanced measure for antibiotic use

  In order to be able to monitor and set targets for antibiotic use going forwards we need to establish and implement a monitoring methodology which gives a balanced view. We will record and report the combined measures as follows:

  1. Milligrams of active antibiotic used per kilogram of animal bodyweight produced (live weight leaving farm)
  2. Daily Defined Dosage (DDD) (i.e. the number of days of treatment in a flock)

  When we set targets for improvements, we will expect to see improvement across both these measures.
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- **Implement a 3R’s framework for responsible use**

  More responsible use is not simply about reducing antibiotic usage. Instead we are adopting the 3Rs approach (Replace, Reduce, Refine) in order to shape our strategy:

  1. **Replace:**
     a. We will review any instances where antibiotics are currently used as a first resort treatment, and replace with other interventions such as vaccinations, changes to husbandry, biosecurity, reduction of stress etc.
     b. We will not use 3rd and 4th generation Cephalosporins, Fluoroquinolones or Macrolides in any of our broiler production, recognising that these are antibiotic classes which have been identified as being of highest priority critical importance to human health. We will keep this decision under review, and should there become a need to extend or reduce this list in the future we will do so, keeping our customers informed.
     c. We will establish two trial farms (from April 2015) which will run indefinitely on the following criteria:
        a. Antibiotic and coccidiostat free
        b. Antibiotic free, but maintaining the use of coccidiostats.

   This will allow us to fully understand the impacts and learnings and will be fully supervised by our vets.

  2. **Reduce:**
     a. Through the use of the RAG (Red, Amber and Green) system we will reduce the number of day old chicks receiving treatment across the Group. The RAG system targets treatment based on a risk assessment of the parent flock health and production farm health history.
     b. We will monitor performance on every farm, for every crop, by type of bird grown (e.g. FR, standard, organic etc). Those farms falling in the bottom quartile over the year will be identified and receive an action plan from their veterinary surgeons. This comprehensive action plan will include an evaluation of farm infrastructure, management capability and chick source. Any farm which does not improve in the second year, after implementation of the action plan (and

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appropriate training and support from the area team and vets) could be considered for removal from supply.

3. Refine:
   a. We will establish an internal committee of stakeholders (from Slate Hall Veterinary Group, H2S and 2 Sisters plus an independent Vet with expertise in emerging Antibiotic policy and strategy) to ensure that the strategy is delivered, but crucially to continue refining the strategy as we move forwards and start to see results. The committee will also review new products, vaccines, and technologies as they information become available and furthermore consider how they may best be implemented and incorporated into the strategy.

   b. The committee will define a small group of farms within a region where we can trial some of these ‘new’ initiatives in a controlled manner (e.g. as described in 1c above). Where successful the learnings from these trials can then be extended to the wider Group.

What does success look like?

As a Group we are targeting a reduction in antibiotic usage (defined by DDD and mg/kg) of 20% per annum between 2015 and 2020, which will be reviewed, and refined annually. This must not be achieved to the detriment of animal welfare or bird quality - which will be established through outcome measure analysis.

As a Group we wish to safeguard the future of antibiotics of critical importance to human health, and have already demonstrated our commitment to this by removing those antibiotics defined as being of highest priority critically important to human health.

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