

Antibiotic policy & strategy

Antibiotics are used in poultry production to treat and prevent infectious diseases and safeguard poultry health and welfare. There is a risk that antibiotic use in animal agriculture contributes to the emergence of antibiotic resistant bacteria, which can spread to humans and make standard treatment of infectious diseases ineffective.

2 Sisters Food Group, its farmers and their vets recognise the potential risk to human healthcare in the overuse of antibiotics within its supply chain, so in 2015 we all agreed to implement an Antibiotic Policy & Strategy within our growing division around a 3R's framework for responsible use; Replace, Reduce, and Refine, which has now become an integral part of our Livestock Code of Practice.

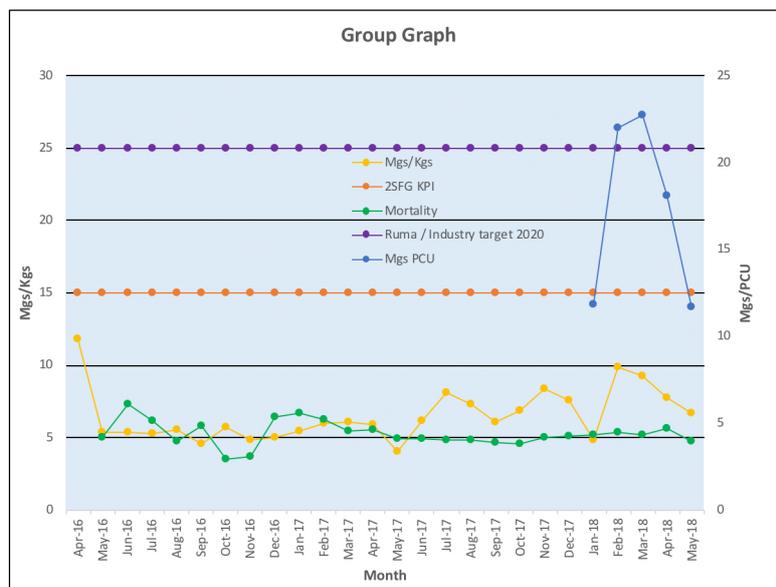
In addition, in line with The World Health Organisation (WHO), we have stopped the use of all antibiotics classed as critically important to humans which include third and fourth generations cephalosporins & fluoroquinolones.

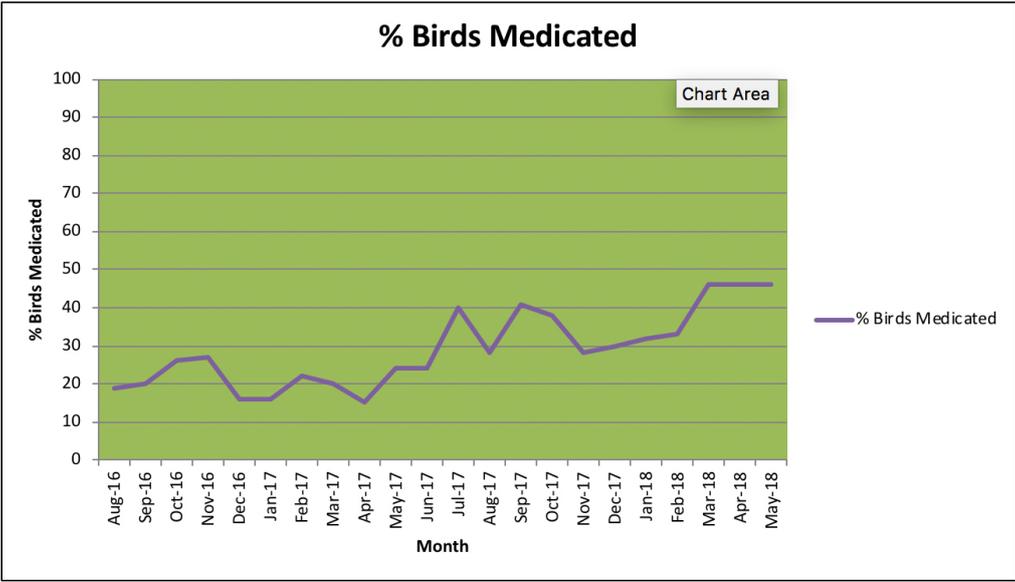
Plus, we have taken the additional step in removing macrolides from our broiler production.

Our comprehensive action plan for further reduction in antibiotic usage includes a review of vaccinations, increased site & house biosecurity and the use of competitive exclusion products administered at day old.

The policy, adhering to both EU & UK regulations ensures that no birds within our supply chain receive antibiotics routinely for growth promoting purposes and that they are only ever used for the treatment of injury or for health reasons under veterinary guidance.

As part of our approach to antibiotics we adopted the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) target and set our own aspirational target. Our antibiotic usage against these targets is shown in the graph below (usage in mgs / kgs live weight) over the last 20 months. Our aim is to reduce levels even further over time whilst protecting the health and welfare of our birds.





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