

CVMA Species-Specific Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidelines For Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Poultry and Swine May '09

Livestock Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidelines

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), with funding from Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-food (ACAAF) have developed species-specific antimicrobial prudent use guidelines for beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry and swine. For each species, there is a set of principles of antimicrobial prudent use, along with a treatment table of antimicrobial therapy for the most common bacterial diseases that Canadian veterinary practitioners encounter in these species.

These guidelines were developed in consultation with Canadian animal health stakeholders, including national and provincial veterinary species associations, veterinary colleges, provincial veterinary associations and commodity associations.

The Prudent Use Guidelines are meant to provide veterinarians with a tool to help in the antimicrobial selection decision-making process. The scope of the Guidelines is for antimicrobials involved in the *treatment* of common bacterial diseases, not for the antimicrobials that may be prescribed by veterinarians for growth promotion or metaphylaxis. The antimicrobials listed include both labeled products, and where applicable, extra-label products. An evidence-based approach was taken to validate the recommendation of extra-label antimicrobials.

Rather than rank the treatment table antimicrobials in a 'usage preference order', the Guidelines use an approach that acknowledges the growing concern in both human medicine and veterinary medicine about antimicrobial resistance. The antimicrobials are divided into categories based on the Veterinary Drug Directorate's "Categorization of Antimicrobial Drugs based on Importance in Human Medicine".

The information contained in these Prudent Use Guidelines is limited to the scientific evidence and antimicrobial drugs approved at the time of publication. The CVMA recognizes that with the availability of new research and antimicrobial drug approvals, these Guidelines will need to be periodically reviewed and updated to maintain them as a 'living document'.

The Guidelines will be distributed to all large and mixed animal practices in Canada, along with veterinary students and large animal faculty. The Guidelines are now available as PDFs electronically to CVMA members on the CVMA website (www.canadianveterinarians.net).