Measure by Measure –

Antimicrobials in the Pig Industry

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“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”. —Helen Keller
Who Are the Pig Health and Welfare Council

- An industry stakeholder group
- Tasked with driving implementation of Pig Health and Welfare Strategy
- Membership comprises of:
  - Pig producers
  - Vets
  - Industry Experts
  - Allied Industry organisations
  - Assurance and Welfare organisation
This group aims to:

- Determine the quantity of antibiotic used in UK pigs

- Determine how antibiotics are used in UK pig production and how the amount and frequency can be optimised, whilst maintaining production levels and health and welfare standards
  - Practices in other species
  - Practices in other countries
PHWC Antimicrobial Usage Subgroup

This group aims to:

• Identify actions already in hand to ensure responsible use of antibiotics in pig production and ways of increasing publicity of this work

• Inform pig producers and vets on how they can use antibiotics responsibly

• Produce an action plan of short, medium and long term tangible actions and to monitor progress against the plan each month
Outputs of the PHWC Antimicrobials Subgroup

- Development of a system for collecting data on antibiotic use at farm level (Pig Industry Medicines Hub).
- Study tours to the Netherlands and to a proactive UK farm to look at good antimicrobial stewardship.
- Development of new research areas, such as investigating the use of targeted, in water, antibiotic treatments in pigs and investigating new and innovative pen-side diagnostic tests to help inform clinical decisions.
- Creation of impartial information to inform the pig industry on what constitutes good practice and to drive cultural and behavioural change where necessary.
Pig Industry Medicines Hub

"If you can not measure it, you can not improve it." – Lord Kelvin
Background to the Hub

• Medicines are a significant input cost in pig production. Better targeting of antibiotic use, combined with alternative management techniques, can help pig producers to minimise antibiotic use and to reduce the cost of production.

• A system is required to measure current on farm usage of antibiotics, which would give a national picture of antibiotic use in the sector and meet any future EU legislative requirements when they arise.

• Building a ‘futureproofed’ system, which may be used in combination with other production data to further inform pig producers on production efficiency.
Pig Industry Medicines Hub (PIMH)

- An online record of total on-farm antibiotic use for the UK pig industry
- Password and username protected
- Single database providing an easy way to record all antibiotic usage
- Compliance with Red Tractor and QMS Farm Assurance Scheme
- Aggregated, anonymised national data to VMD and Brussels
- Built upon similar model to eAML2 (electronic pig movement system)
- Developed and designed by the pig industry in partnership with VMD
How will data be submitted into a medicine account?

Use of compatible software to upload antibiotic usage data into the PIMH

Delegated authority allowing for a third party to enter data on behalf of the producer

Recording of antibiotic use directly into the PIMH
Summary

• The Pig Health and Welfare Council are being proactive in the area of antimicrobials

• The medicines hub is being developed to inform industry of farm level usage of antibiotics ‘If you can’t measure it, you cannot improve it’.

• The PIMH is being developed and funded by AHDB Pork in collaboration with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate

• The PIMH is due to be launched in April 2016, in time to collect data from January 2016 (Q1)

• UK wide coverage of the hub will be phased in following the launch through 2016