

WHAT RESPONSIBLE ANTIBIOTIC USE Means on a

Pig Farm

When farmers and their veterinarians determine that antibiotics are needed, they're doing the responsible thing for People, Pigs and the Planet.



America's pig farmers work closely with veterinarians to ensure that their pigs stay healthy. However, at times pigs need medical attention, which may require the use of antibiotics to treat illness. Responsible antibiotic use means using only what's necessary for pig health. This sensible approach means doing what's best for food safety, animal well-being and the environment, or in other words... People, Pigs and Planet.

Raising Healthy Pigs May Require Antibiotics

For pigs, just like people, antibiotics can be important for staying healthy and fighting disease. When pigs stay healthy, safe pork is the result. Here are some examples of when farmers, with veterinary oversight, choose to use FDA-approved antibiotics to care for their pigs as part of an overall care plan.

To treat illness when a pig gets sick



To control the spread of illness in neighboring pigs



To prevent illness at specific times of vulnerability



Safe Pork Comes from Healthy Pigs



While raising healthy pigs is a top goal of pig farmers, their overall objective is to produce safe, wholesome food that's consistent with the ideals of today's consumers. Fortunately, U.S. pig farmers lead the way on animal care and doing what's right on the farm.

By maintaining a close working relationship with their veterinarians, farmers are able to keep pigs healthy. This is called a veterinary-client-patient relationship.



By using antibiotics responsibly when needed, farmers produce safe and delicious pork products for you and your family.

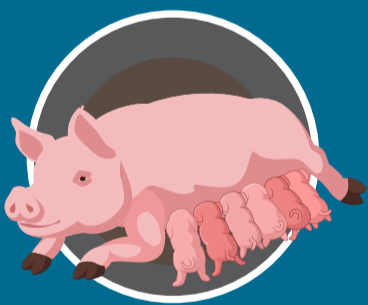


In 1989, U.S. pig farmers began what's known today as the Pork Quality Assurance® Plus program to foster food safety and animal welfare. This certification program educates pig farmers on good record keeping and on using antibiotics responsibly on their farms.

Responsible Antibiotic Use Benefits Everyone

Pigs Get a Better Quality of Life

When farmers use antibiotics as prescribed by a veterinarian, pigs tend to:¹



Give birth to larger, healthier litters



Get sick less often and recover faster



Suffer premature death less often due to illness

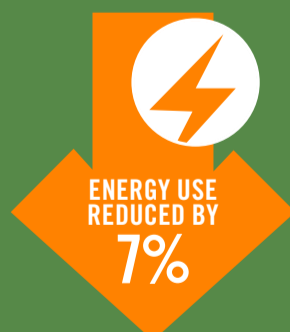


Stay healthier and grow stronger

1. Based on data from Effects of Alternative Hog Production Practices on the Market for Pork, R. Sexton, D. Sumner, T. Saitone, UC Davis, 2013.

U.S. Pork's Sustainability Keeps Improving

Improvements Per Pound of Pork Produced (from 1960 to 2015)²



These improvements reflect the collaboration of farmers and veterinarians who use the best management and tools available to keep pigs healthy every day, year after year.

2. A Retrospective Assessment of U.S. Pork Production: 1960 to 2015, Univ. of Arkansas, National Pork Board, 2018.



America's pig farmers share the same values as today's consumers.

Keeping pigs healthy and producing safe food are the top priority of pig farmers and their veterinarians. Together, they will continue to do what's right for the animals, which may include using antibiotics when necessary to keep pigs healthy.

For more information, visit www.porkcares.org