**GRSB Antimicrobial Stewardship Statement**

*(These guidelines are in line with OIE guidance and equivalents adopted in other countries for antimicrobial use in cattle. They are not intended to duplicate or replace national or local legislation or regulations. Implementation will always be subject to local and national legislation or regulations.)*

The following suggestions aid cattle producers and the veterinary profession in their responsibility for maintaining herd health and welfare as well as economic viability. They also support public health and benefit consumers. Members of GRSB recognize the importance of maintaining the efficacy of antibiotics for human and animal health, and therefore seek to minimize the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Sustainable beef producers, veterinary profession and value chain partners work together to:

1. Establish a valid health plan and veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian or qualified animal health provider, including applicable preventative measures to *refine*, *reduce* and where possible *replace* the use of antibiotics;
2. Prioritize the welfare of animals, treating as few animals as possible where indicated, but as many as necessary, within a VCPR;
3. Ensure those administering antimicrobials are appropriately trained;
4. Are legally compliant when administering antimicrobials, as per label / prescription from a veterinarian for storage, indication, dose, route, duration and withdrawal period;
5. Dispose of all expired antimicrobials safely in accordance with relevant regulations;
6. Keep veterinary treatment records that include the date/dosage/route of administration for antimicrobials used, as well as treatment outcomes when attainable, and any pertinent diagnostic test results.
7. Adopt a tiered approach to antimicrobial use; use the lowest importance antimicrobials for human health as first choice and those of highest importance to human health as last choice, with consideration given to clinical relevance when selecting an antimicrobial.
8. Do not use antimicrobials that are on both the specific country’s highest category of importance in human medicine and the WHO list of “highest priority critically important antimicrobials for human medicine[[1]](#footnote-1) in cattle, unless there are no clinically relevant alternatives.
9. Do not use any antimicrobials other than ionophores in order to improve feed efficiency.

1. WHO: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255027/1/9789241512220-eng.pdf?ua=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)