



# GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF<sup>®</sup>

## GRSB Statement on Antimicrobial Stewardship

(Adopted by GRSB Membership 13 June 2018)

(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:**

- Establish a herd health plan and valid veterinary client-patient-relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian<sup>1</sup>, including applicable preventative measures to refine, reduce and where possible replace the use of antimicrobials. Review health plan periodically;
- Prioritize the welfare of animals within the confines of a valid VCPR, focusing on good animal husbandry and vaccinations to prevent common infectious diseases. Treat as few animals as possible when required, but as many as necessary for effective disease control;
- Ensure those administering antimicrobials are appropriately trained and competent in correctly following prescription and label instructions;
- Ensure legal compliance in administration of antimicrobials with drug indication, dose, route, frequency, duration, withdrawal period, and storage, as per prescriptions/label directions and health protocols from a veterinarian;
- Dispose of all expired antimicrobials safely in accordance with relevant regulations;
- Keep treatment records that include the date, disease diagnosis, antimicrobial product name, dosage, route of administration, treatment outcomes when attainable, and any pertinent diagnostic test results;
- Adopt a tiered approach to antimicrobial use: use effective antimicrobials of the lowest importance in human medicine as the first choice and those of highest importance in human medicine as the last choice, provided doing so does not delay effective treatment or compromise animal health and welfare;
- Not use licensed antimicrobials that are in the specific country's highest category of importance in human medicine<sup>2</sup> and the WHO list of highest priority critically important antimicrobials for human medicine, unless no other antimicrobials licensed for use in cattle would achieve the desired animal health, welfare and food safety outcomes; and
- Not use any antimicrobials other than ionophores to improve feed efficiency.

<sup>1</sup> or qualified animal health provider (e.g. paravet) in low and middle income countries with limited veterinary infrastructure

<sup>2</sup> WHO: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255027/1/9789241512220-eng.pdf?ua=1>