



We need **you** to take action to ensure antimicrobials are handled with care!



**ANTIMICROBIALS ARE ESSENTIAL MEDICINES**

to control and treat infection in both human and animals.

**BUT THEY ARE LOSING THEIR EFFICACY**

at an increasing rate due to overuse and misuse.



What **you** need to know:

- The risk that disease-causing agents will develop resistance to antimicrobials increases whenever these precious medicines are used inappropriately. Once bacteria are resistant, the antimicrobial is ineffective and can no longer treat the disease. This phenomenon is called antimicrobial resistance (**AMR**).
- **AMR** is a threat to the health and welfare of humans and animals, whether aquatic or terrestrial. However, the development of new antimicrobials has not kept pace with the increase of resistance to existing antimicrobials. We need to protect what we have now!
- Continued availability and efficacy of existing antimicrobials classes are essential. Handling these invaluable medicines responsibly and prudently will help maintain their efficacy and availability for both human and animal health.

**“We all have a role to play, and **you**, as antimicrobial users, can help.”**

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

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**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

# Livestock owners: you are the producers

- As food-producing animal owners - whether large scale producers, fish farmers or the owners of backyard animals - you have a vital role in feeding the planet. You are responsible for providing safe, healthy produce to consumers by looking after the health and welfare of your animals.
- Responsible and prudent use includes implementing practical measures and recommendations aimed at the improvement of animal health and animal welfare, while preventing or reducing the selection, emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance. Act today to protect the future efficacy of antimicrobials.

## Farmers and animal owners should:

<b>1</b>	<b>Only use antimicrobials when prescribed by a veterinarian</b> (or other suitably trained person authorised to prescribe veterinary drugs). Not every infection needs to be treated with antimicrobials.
<b>2</b>	Follow the exact <b>dosing instructions</b> given by the veterinarian.
<b>3</b>	Follow the <b>length of treatment</b> as prescribed – even if the animal seems to have recovered.
<b>4</b>	Only obtain <b>antimicrobials from authorised sources</b> that can ensure the quality of the products.
<b>5</b>	<b>Apply good animal husbandry, biosecurity and management</b> practices. Animal owners should develop a <b>health plan</b> for their animals with their veterinarian or an animal health professional to protect them from infection and <b>reduce the need antimicrobial use</b> .
<b>6</b>	Keep <b>adequate written records of all antimicrobials used</b> and of laboratory results.



## Changing the Culture 2019-2024

Northern Ireland have produced their own 5-year action plan entitled '[Changing the Culture 2019-2025 – One health](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/antimicrobial-resistance-amr)'. The action plan reflects the priority areas for action from human and animal health, agriculture and environmental perspectives. It is a collaborative effort between the Department of health, DAERA and Food Standards Agency NI.

**For more information:** <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/antimicrobial-resistance-amr>