ANTIMICROBIAL USAGE POLICY IN M&S SOURCED LIVESTOCK

At M&S, our ongoing commitment is to source our raw materials for fresh meat, poultry, dairy and wild and farmed fish products, from the most sustainable sources possible.

Through our Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Programme, we are working with farmers and suppliers to ensure the welfare of the animals and staff is safeguarded and the impact on the environment is minimised, as well as ensuring the efficiency of production.

As part of this programme, we are actively addressing the use of antimicrobial medicines in all our livestock supply chains. We fully support the need to safeguard our antimicrobial medicines and reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance to global human health. We also recognise the importance of responsible veterinary care and the role that antimicrobial use plays in protecting the health and welfare of the animals in our supply.

Our policy for antimicrobial usage in M&S sourced livestock has been developed in consultation with our sustainability advisors, veterinary staff and suppliers and takes into account the views of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and The European Medicines Authority (EMA).

The following policy outlines our approach to responsible antimicrobial use across all livestock species. The core actions have been embedded in our raw material sourcing of all proteins through our livestock Codes of Practice and Select Farm Assurance documents, which set the standards that all our Select Farm suppliers must adhere to, and our Farming For the Future (FFTF) Outcome Measures, which provide independently collected data on the welfare and sustainability of animals in our supply chains.

Our Approach – the 4Rs Framework

1. **Record**: the use of antimicrobial agents on all farms in the M&S supply, reliably and robustly
2. **Reduce:** the annual usage of antimicrobial agents by discontinuing unnecessary use, whilst ensuring animal health and welfare is preserved
3. **Replace**: the use of antimicrobial agents where possible with evidence-based and sustainable solutions to disease prevention
4. **Refine:** the use of antimicrobial agents, by ensuring the responsible and informed selection and correct administration of products to animals that require treatment

Further details on how we are implementing this approach across our supply is provided below. Appendix 1 outlines the specific actions to support the 4R's policy approach in each livestock species.

1. Recording antimicrobial use for livestock in the M&S supply

All our farmers already record antimicrobial use for all animals through documentation in a manual or electronic medicine book. To allow us to better understand antimicrobial usage within our supply chains and support monitoring initiatives at a wider national level, we will require our farmers to record more comprehensive usage data, reliably and accurately.
We will require our farmers to record the following information on all animals/groups of animals sourced for M&S. For each treatment administered, the following information will be required:

1. **Total quantity of each antibiotic used (mg)** – i.e. trade name of the medicine, amount used per day and number of treatment days
2. **Number of animals treated**
3. **Average weight of the animal(s) at treatment (kg) and/or production class (age)**
4. **Total number of animals (by species) on farm** (where possible)

To monitor antimicrobial usage over time, for each of our species supply chains, we will use the following approach:

1. **Antimicrobial usage = Total milligrams (mg) of active antibiotic used / Population Correction Unit (PCU)**

and

2. **Total number of antimicrobial courses per animal or flock** (critical and non-critical courses defined)

PCU is a technical unit of measurement used by the VMD to report sales data representing the estimated weight of livestock when they are most likely to receive antibiotic treatment (1 PCU = 1 kg bodyweight of animal at the time of treatment).

A measure of total animal courses is included alongside total quantity used to discourage behaviours such as not completing a course, under-dosing, or using a higher potency (often critically important) antibiotics to reduce the dose rate, as this could lead to an even greater risk of antimicrobial resistance developing.

As national and international policies evolve, we will revise our policy to report antimicrobial use in line with standardised approaches outlined by UK and European legislation and the leading veterinary authorities on medicine usage.

2. Reducing antimicrobial use of livestock in the M&S supply

Through independent monitoring and review of the antibiotic usage in each livestock sector and engagement with our suppliers and associated veterinary advisors, we will seek to reduce unwarranted antimicrobial use.

Our current actions that apply to all livestock species include:

1. Prohibition of the use antimicrobials deemed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as critical for use in human medicine, including 3rd and 4th generation Cephalosporins, Fluoroquinolones or Macrolides, other than as a last resort supported by diagnostic testing to protect animal welfare. All treatments must be notified to M&S via the supplying processor. For the full WHO list see -http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/antimicrobial-resistance/cia/en/.
2. Ensure licensed antibiotics are always prescribed by a veterinarian for metaphylaxis and treatment of specific diseases, and cessation of routine prophylactic treatment.

3. Replacing antimicrobial use of livestock in the M&S supply

We require all our producers to implement a Herd Health and Welfare Plan that is developed in conjunction with a veterinary surgeon and reviewed and updated on a minimum annual basis. The plan must cover key disease and welfare challenges specific to the farm, a review of existing antimicrobial use and opportunities to replace usage with alternative management, breed and infrastructure solutions.

At the supplier level, in each livestock sector we will support leading initiatives to tackle the key disease challenges with practical and evidence-based solutions that can replace the need for medicine use, including vaccinations, improved management strategies, genetics, nutrition, biosecurity and novel technologies.

4. Refining antimicrobial use of livestock in the M&S supply

We are working with our suppliers and veterinary associates to require that policies and practices are in place in each supply chain ensure that when our livestock animals do require treatment, the correct drug and dosing regime is correctly given to the animals requiring treatment only.

We will use our farmer engagement platform FFTF Producer Exchange to support our suppliers in disseminating core, species-specific information regarding best practises for responsible antimicrobial treatment on the farm.

APPENDIX 1. Antimicrobial usage policy in M&S sourced livestock - key species actions to be implemented in 2016/2017, followed by aspirational actions in 2017/2018 (tbc)

Species		Record **usage, reliably and robustly**	Replace **with sustainable alternatives**	Reduce **unnecessary use**	Refine **necessary usage for effective treatment**
Ruminants					
Beef Cattle	***Implement:***	- Defined project to sample data collection from Integrated beef supply to understand current challenges to data access and usage	- Supplier-led review of quality of existing herd health plan and gap analysis with best practice (e.g. biosecurity and TB control, etc)	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in beef COP	- Promotion of responsible use through annual Producer Exchange article
	Aspirational:	- Endorse/develop an industry-led electronic medicine recording database for farmers to upload information - Request exported data from suppliers on annual basis		- Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Support industry and supplier initiative to engage with veterinary profession on responsible treatment
Lamb	***Implement:***		- Supplier-led review of quality of existing herd health plan and gap analysis with best practice (e.g. anthelmintic resistance)	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in lamb COP	- Promotion of responsible use through annual Producer Exchange article (e.g. 5-Point Plan to tackle lameness)
	Aspirational:	- Endorse/develop an industry-led electronic medicine recording database for farmers to upload information - Request exported data from suppliers on annual basis		- Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Support industry and supplier initiative to engage with veterinary profession on responsible treatment
Dairy Cattle	***Implement:***	- FAI quarterly data collection to support Herd Health audit to provide quarterly medicine reporting by all farms	- Annual health and welfare audit undertaken by Herd Health (NB) - In depth annual health and welfare audit, benchmarking and feedback to each farm	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in dairy COP, including dry cow therapy - Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Promotion of responsible use through annual Producer Exchange article
	Aspirational:	- Encourage traceability of young stock treatment where possible		- Phase out use of antimicrobial use for dry cow therapy (as a treatment of cows with subclinical conditions/mastitis) - Phase out all antimicrobials of critical importance	- Support industry and supplier initiative to engage with veterinary profession on responsible treatment - Support development and use of on-farm diagnostic tools for rapid diagnosis
Aquaculture					
Salmon – Lochmuir	***Implement:***	- Start collection of medicine use alongside OM data collection	- Support the use of biological controls for sea lice treatment (monitor usage and success as OM versus medicinal treatment) - Reduced stocking densities at introduction to marine environment (no grading and associated stress required)	- Veterinary health plan developed by SSF including weekly assessments of fish health	
	Aspirational:				

Monogastrics					
Chicken	***Implement:***	- Antibiotic recording in full with OM reporting (including age of birds at treatment, reason for treatment)	- Supplier-led initiative to promote best practice flock health plan with focus on preventative interventions and biosecurity practices	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in chicken COP - Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Promotion of responsible use through annual Producer Exchange article
	Aspirational:	- In-depth supplier-led review of antimicrobial use and supplier benchmarking			- Support industry and supplier initiative to engage with veterinary profession on responsible treatment - Support development and use of on-farm diagnostic tools for rapid diagnosis
Pork	***Implement:***	- Require all producers to submit full antimicrobial usage data to FAI (direct or export from PIMH/PigHub database)	- Supplier-led review of quality of existing herd health plan and gap analysis with best practice	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in pork COP - Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Promotion of responsible use through annual Producer Exchange article
	Aspirational:	- In-depth supplier-led review of antimicrobial use and supplier benchmarking			- Support development and use of on-farm diagnostic tools for rapid diagnosis
Laying hens	***Implement:***	- Require all producers to submit full antimicrobial usage data to FAI (direct or export from Lion Code/BEIC database)	- Supplier-led initiative to promote best practice flock health plan with focus on preventative interventions and biosecurity practices	- Prohibition of routine prophylactic use in laying hen COP - Require notifiable reporting of use of antimicrobials deemed critical for human health	- Support industry and supplier initiative to engage with veterinary profession on responsible treatment
	Aspirational:	- In-depth supplier-led review of antimicrobial use and supplier benchmarking			- Support development and use of on-farm diagnostic tools for rapid diagnosis