About EPRUMA

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

- **Mission**: Promote responsible use of medicines in animals in the EU
- **Aim**: Facilitate and promote a coordinated approach, involving all stakeholders, to ensure best practice in the responsible use of medicines in disease prevention and control → promote animal health and welfare
- Established in 2005
About EPRUMA

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

How it works:

- **Identifying issues** of scientific and public concern in the areas of public health, animal health, animal welfare and the environment related to the use of animal medicines
- **Providing** an informed **consensus** view on these issues
- **Establishing broad principles** describing “best practice” concerning the use of medicines in disease prevention and control.
About EPRUMA

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How it works (contd.):

▪ **Communicating through** and involving **all parties** concerned in the implementation of best practices
▪ **Consulting and communicating** to promote responsible use, to contribute to relevant legislation, to explain responsible use as part of good farming
▪ **Identifying and supporting implementation** of practical strategies to sustain responsible use.
EPRUMA members

- **COPA-COGECA**: Farmers and agri-cooperatives
- **EISA**: European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
- **FECAVA**: Small-animal vets
- **FEFAC**: Feed manufacturers
- **FESASS**: Animal-health farmer organisations
- **FVE**: Veterinarians
- **IFAH-Europe**: Animal health industry

**Observer:**
**EFFAB**: Farm animal breeders
Best-practice framework

Use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals in the EU
**Best-practice framework**

**Purpose:**

- Contribute to antimicrobial effectiveness through **best-practice**
- **Adaptable** to specificities in Member States
- Complementing integrated farming

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Coordinated approach across the EU + tailored at national level
Best-practice framework

Good health - food production

- **Good health** → animal welfare + optimal animal performance
- **Disease control**: Essential in health management + part of high-quality food production
Antimicrobials (AM): Essential tools

- They **kill or inhibit** the growth of bacteria
- Contribution to **animal health and welfare** - alleviating pain and discomfort
- **Responsible use** is necessary - fight AM resistance
- AM use should complement **good farm-management**
- **Various classes** + **routes** of administration
- **License**: proven quality, safety and efficacy
Best-practice framework

Animal health - good husbandry

- **Farmers**: Monitor the health and welfare of animals
- **Veterinarians**: Advise on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease
- **Husbandry**: Good environment + biosecurity + health plan
- **Vet/farmer**: Open communication is key
Best-practice framework

Monitored + Surveillance

Healthy Animal

Healthy or not healthy?

Sick and "in contact" animal

Healthy Animal

**Monitoring**

- ** Aim:** Disease prevention
- ** How:**
  - Surveillance (farmer)
  - Detection (farmer)
  - Diagnosis:
    - on the spot (farmer + vet)
    - Lab samples (vet)

**Results:**
- Negative
- Positive

**Surveillance**

- ** Aim:** Retrieving health status
- ** How:**
  - Administering the medication / antimicrobial
  - Label information
  - Dosage

**Results:**
- Positive

**Healthy Animal**

- ** Aim:** Improving health status
- ** How:**
  - Review of records (farmer + vet)
  - Improve animal husbandry (farmer)
  - Improve hygiene practices (farmer)
  - Review vaccine use (farmer + vet)

**Revised Animal Health Plan**
Best-practice framework

Disease diagnosis and treatment

- **Disease**: Vet examines animal → diagnosis → intervention
- **Early action** is key
- **Vet to choose** the most appropriate AM (spectrum)
- Farmer/vet/expert **cooperation** to ensure effective treatment
- **Successful treatment**: Proper administration of AM + correct quantity and time period
Best-practice framework

Record keeping - Farmer and vet

- **Mandatory record** of animal medicines used on the farm
- Keeping information → future treatment

**Infectious diseases:**
- Historical information - laboratory sensitivity data

**Records:**
- They indicate AM use on the farm
- Trends should be observed and changes examined.
Best-practice framework

Protecting future effectiveness

- **If concern:** Farmer to consult vet → report to authorities
  - **Issue:** Safety or efficacy

- **Monitoring sensitivity:** Important to do it on an ongoing basis (e.g. resistance)

**Benefits:**
- Help veterinarians to make best decision on treatment
- Support public health
Best-practice framework: Conclusions

- **Antimicrobials are key** → protect animal health and welfare
- **Protecting animal health** → High quality food from healthy animals + minimising environmental impact
- **All parties should work together** → Ensure safe use + minimise resistance

Guiding principle:
«As little as possible and as much as necessary»
New developments

Short term:

EPRUMA website: available as from June 2010
www.epruma.eu

EPRUMA leaflet and poster: available as from June 2010
www.epruma.eu
New developments

Longer term:

Development new guidelines e.g. companion animals

Accreditation other guidelines/ posters on responsible use e.g. BVA poster