Programme

Focus Group
Animal Husbandry

October 24th – 25th, 2013

Eindhoven, NL

EIP-AGRI Service Point
"Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability"

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Introduction and background

Antimicrobials have been a key tool used to fight against infectious diseases since the 1940s. However, the efficacy of antimicrobials in human and livestock health is being increasingly threatened. Multiple reports have shown the increased costs and mortality rates associated with resistance. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently classified antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the top three threats to human health.

Resistance is a natural and ancient phenomenon, but there is evidence that the current global levels of resistance are, in part, due to the use of antimi-crobials in livestock. Defining boundaries between the use of antimicrobials in humans and its use in animals proves extremely challenging. Any use of antimi-crobials in animals can ultimately affect humans, and vice versa, due to the connectedness of microor-ganism populations. Resistant bacteria and resistance genes carried by commensal bacteria in food-producing animals can reach people, mainly directly via the food chain. Resistant bacteria can also spread through the environment (e.g. via contaminated water) or through direct animal contact on farms or at home with pets.

This paper aims to provide a concise overview of the problem and possible options to reduce antimi-crobial usage in pig production. In order to avoid misunderstandings, a glossary of terms is provided at the end of the document. The terms “antimicrobials” and “antimicrobial resistance” are used to include all substances that might have public health impact keeping in mind that currently antibacterial re-sistance is most relevant.

This paper is primarily directed at the focus group. The focus group is meant to explore ways to reduce the use of antimicrobials which have a positive or at least neutral effect on the economics of produc-tion. This paper provides an overview of all available strategies, not all of which will fall in the focus category of the working group but are included for completeness. This particularly relates to the chap-ter on good governance. It is anticipated that the focus group will consider changes in general farm and husbandry management practices that are most likely to lead to a reduced usage of antimicrobials. Practical consequences of such changes will also be consi-dered. . ….

Prof. Katharina Stärk, Dr.med.vet., PhD, DipECVPH

Day 1 24 th October 2013

12:00	Arrival and lunch (Hotel La Reine, Eindhoven)
13:00	Welcome to participants and short presentation *EIP-Service point*
13:30	General aim of WG, expectations, processes and questions *DG-Agri representative*
14:00	Presentation of starting paper *Katharina Stärk*
14:30	Discussion of the starting paper, collection of discussion topics and key questions *all*
15:15	***Coffee break***
15:30	Field visit (Field visit to the Swine Innovation Centre (VIC) in Sterksel) *all*
19:00	**Joint dinner at Queen Hotel** *all*

Day 2 25 th October 2013

09:00	Chair´s election *all*
09:30	Case presentation 1 *Annette Cleveland*
	Case presentation 2 *Jeroen Dewulf*
	Case presentation 3 *Edgar Garcia Manzanilla*
10:00	Breakout groups *(topics to be defined on day 1)* *all*
10:45	***Coffee break***
11:00	Group feedback, discussion all
12:00	Conclusions, planning next meeting, tasks all
12:30	***Close / lunch***