



### **Pesticides**

All crop protection products must be approved for their intended use. They should only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and any relevant codes of good practice should be observed. Compliance with 'harvest intervals' should be ensured.

Pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides and wood preservatives) should be stored in an appropriate well ventilated and secure area. This area should be constructed in such a manner as to contain spillages in the case of accidents. They should be kept in the original container and not transferred to, e.g. unmarked containers such as drink bottles.

Appropriate protective clothing and masks should be worn when handling, mixing or using these products, as indicated on the label of the product.

### **Other Farm Chemicals**

These include detergents, sterilisers/cleaning agents, disinfectants, feed additives, fertilisers, fuel oils, lubricants etc.

As with pesticides, all other chemicals must be handled, stored, used and disposed of in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination of primary food produce or animal feed as well as the risk of accidental ingestion/uptake by animals/crops.

Special care must also be taken to ensure that equipment surfaces coming into contact with food produce or feed are free from chemical contaminants. In particular, dairy equipment must be thoroughly rinsed with potable water following use of detergent/sterilisers.

Strong-smelling disinfectants especially phenolic types, e.g. Jeyes Fluid, must not be used or stored in the environs of milk/milk products due to the high risk of taints.



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medicines,  
pesticides and  
chemicals on farms

prudent use of  
*medicines, pesticides and  
chemicals on farms*



... to ensure food safety



## PRUDENT USE OF MEDICINES, PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS ON FARMS

### Antibiotics

**The misuse of antibiotics in food animals and humans results in the development of bacteria which are resistant to a range of antibiotics.**

While the relative contributions of human and animal use of antibiotics to the resistance problem remains unclear, all of these drugs must be used prudently.

However, antibiotics used as necessary, in an efficient and effective manner, in both humans and livestock will give benefit while minimising the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of germs.

Resistant germs at farm level lead to difficulties in the control of certain infections in food animals. This has resulted in the use of more powerful and expensive antibiotics in the treatment of disease. As these new antibiotics are also used to treat human illness, it is only a matter of time before germs develop resistance to these new antibiotics if they are used incorrectly.

It must be remembered that new antibiotics are uncommon and are not introduced every year. If antibiotics are misused there is a real concern that a superbug will evolve that will be untreatable. Resistant germs colonise food animals and can be introduced into the food chain during the slaughter and processing operations. Some strains of *Salmonella* are demonstrating an alarming spread of multiple antibiotic resistance.



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*Campylobacter* is now showing increasing signs of resistance. Individuals who become infected with these resistant organisms may find that traditional antibiotic therapies may be ineffective. This will then require the use of alternative therapeutic agents which may or may not prove effective. Clearly, this cannot be allowed to happen.

### On the Farm

The practice of intensive livestock production has become a common phenomenon in Ireland over the last 20-30 years. This is particularly so in poultry and pig rearing systems where high stocking densities are common.

Intensive rearing has resulted in an increase in certain production diseases and this in turn led to the incorporation of antibiotics and other therapeutic substances in the feed at low concentrations. The use of antibiotics for growth promotion purposes is now banned under EU legislation.

The indiscriminate use of antibiotics on the farm is no substitute for good husbandry practices. Always adopt a commonsense approach when using antibiotics and ensure you follow the prescription carefully. The choice of antibiotic should be based on accurate diagnosis.

The routine prophylactic use of animal medicines in clinically normal animals to prevent disease should be avoided.

### Treatment of Animals

Antibiotics used in the treatment of animal diseases must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.

**“Remember - antibiotics must be given at the correct dosage and for the correct period of time”.**

The main reason for the development of antibiotic resistance is abuse of the above rule.



you must observe the withdrawal periods for all animal remedies

## Prudent Use of Animal Remedies (including antibiotics)

### Principles

Animal remedies should not be purchased where the label and/or package insert has been defaced or otherwise altered or where the label and/or package insert has been removed. If administering animal remedies, do so in accordance with the conditions of use of that animal remedy.

“Where an animal remedy is administered to an animal or animals whose meat, offal or products, including milk, eggs and honey, are intended for human consumption, the owner or person in charge of the animal(s) concerned shall ensure that the treated animal(s) are not slaughtered, sold or exported if intended to be slaughtered for human consumption or their products, such as milk, eggs, etc., sold during the withdrawal period specified on the conditions of use of the animal remedy.”

In other words, you must observe the **withdrawal periods** of all animal remedies if it is intended to use any part of the animal or products therefrom, for human consumption.

In general, your veterinary surgeon will specify the appropriate withdrawal period for all animal remedies prescribed. If a withdrawal period is not specified on the animal remedy you must consult your veterinary surgeon before the remedy is administered.

### Records

It is mandatory to maintain a record of all treatments given to animals intended for human consumption. The name of the animal remedy, the period of administration, the amount given and by whom are some of the records which must be kept.

Prescriptions issued for animal remedies must also be maintained. These records must be kept in an 'Animal Remedies Register' and it is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge to maintain this register. This record must be available for inspection on request by an authorised officer.