

On Farm Antibiotic Data Collection: Always a priority but never an implemented plan

The need for data on the use of antibiotics on farms is not a new concept. Understanding how antibiotics are used on farms is critical in understanding antibiotic resistance trends in the food production sector and finding ways to raise animals in healthier ways. Not only has Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) been actively advocating for the development of a national data collection system to identify what antibiotics are being given to animals and for what purpose, but it has supposedly been a priority of federal agencies for over two decades. However, as you can see below, there has been a lot of talk and very little action. Currently, in November of 2021, we still have no system to collect data on farms, no biomass adjustment method, and no report evaluating the impact of FDA actions to reduce antibiotic overuse. It's time for federal agencies and the White House to step up, make this a national priority, and follow through.

1999	22 years ago	Interagency Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance created.
2001	20 years ago	Public Health Action Plan To Combat Antimicrobial Resistance Top Priority Action Items to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (Action Item #5): Develop and implement procedures for monitoring patterns of antimicrobial drug use in human medicine, agriculture, veterinary medicine, and consumer products.
2003	18 years ago	USDA CAHFSE On farm sampling of antibiotic use and resistance starting with pigs but never moves out of pilot phase.
2004	17 years ago	Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends USDA and HHS jointly develop data collection plan
2004	17 years ago	UCS Hogging It Report – NGO estimate drug use by drug approvals and animal numbers because of the failure of federal agencies to collect and report this data.
2007	14 years ago	FDA Science Board NARMS review found lack of actual drug use data “represents a critical barrier for NARMS to achieve its objectives and further utility”.
2011	10 years ago	GAO again recommends HHS and USDA work together to implement data collection program

2015 March	80 Months ago	National Action Plan - “Within 3 years: USDA and FDA will initiate collection of drug use and resistance data on farms. This information will be used to determine baselines and trends in drug use and resistance.”
2015 September	86 Months ago	FDA/USDA Public meeting on Collecting On-Farm Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Data.
2016 March	68 Months ago	FDA request for applications for data collection cooperative agreement to identify ways to collect data.
2017 March	50 Months ago	GAO again recommends on farm data collection
2017 June	53 Months ago	FDA Science Board NARMS Review emphasizes the need for on-farm antibiotic use data.
2017 August	51 months ago	FDA publishes a proposed method to adjust sales data by biomass.
2018 September	38 months ago	FDA issues the five-year plan on antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary settings. Includes the a goal to develop a long-term strategy for implementing a functional and efficient system for collecting antimicrobial use data in animals.
2020 November	12 months ago	Journal articles are published based on 2016 request for proposals but do not lead to data collection system.