



Keystone Foods' Responsible Antibiotic Use Policy

Keystone Foods subscribes to and practices the judicious use of antibiotics outlined by the American Veterinary Medical Association the American Association of Avian Pathologists. As such, the following principles are employed when managing antibiotic use:

- Keystone Foods does not use any antibiotics for the purpose of growth promotion.
- Keystone Foods relies on preventive strategies such as thorough biosecurity and animal welfare programs, appropriate husbandry practices, vaccination programs, sanitation programs and routine health monitoring programs to minimize the potential need for antibiotic therapy.
- Occasionally, flocks will need treatment and Keystone Foods reserves the right to treat these animals accordingly as refusing treatment would be a violation of the Veterinary Oath and Keystone Foods' Animal Welfare Program.
- Prior to considering use of an antibiotic, other non-antibiotic treatment options should be considered. Examples of these include the use of sanitizing agents, supportive vitamin and electrolyte supplementation, changes in management strategies, or the use of other GRAS (generally recognized as safe) substances which may be effective in controlling bacterial infections.
- Therapeutic antibiotics are used to treat individual flocks that have been diagnosed with a specific condition by a poultry veterinarian or trained company employee. When these compounds are utilized the following guidelines must be followed.
 - * A licensed and accredited Keystone Foods' veterinarian must make the determination of whether a house is to be treated.
 - * The veterinarian should have sufficient knowledge of the flock history, field or laboratory necropsy results and culture and sensitivity results (if available) to make an educated clinical judgment on the most appropriate therapy based on the clinical indications.
 - * Only after the Keystone Foods' veterinarian gives specific instructions to go ahead with treatment and writes a prescription, may an antibiotic be used.
 - * The prescribed FDA-approved antibiotic will only be used in compliance with the labeled use or in strict accordance with FDA's extra-label use policy.
 - * The veterinarian must assign treatment for the appropriate amount of time ensuring that the timeframe is long enough to treat the problem but not excessively long to where there is antibiotic wastage. Normal course of therapy is 4-7 days.
 - * The veterinarian must assign treatment to the smallest possible group of ill or at risk animals (i.e., individual house) to minimize antibiotic exposure.

- * The veterinarian, when possible, must assign treatments that are as narrow spectrum in their activity as possible and should choose antibiotics that are not considered important in treating infections in humans. Because of the limited choice of antibiotics available to treat poultry diseases, compliance with this point may be difficult.
 - * Use of any therapeutic antibiotic must be followed by the FDA-mandated withdrawal period. This information can be found on the antibiotic packaging and the veterinary prescription.
 - * Any house treated with antibiotics must have muscle tissue submitted to a reference laboratory for residue testing (for that antibiotic only) with negative or below action level result received prior to processing (see below for residue testing procedure).
 - * The veterinarian must be available for follow-up evaluation or consultation.
- Keystone Foods uses ionophores for the control of intestinal parasites in the genus *Eimeria* (coccidiosis). These drugs are technically antibiotics but because 1) their intent of use is not anti-bacterial in nature, 2) their intent of use is not growth promotion and 3) because they are not related to any compounds used to treat infections in humans, they are exempt from Keystone Foods' Antibiotic Use Policy.