Antimicrobial stewardship on-farm

ANTIMICROBIALS
Prescribed by a vet to kill bacteria, viruses, parasites and treat disease in the flock

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
Microbes developing immunity to antimicrobials due to over-use, making antimicrobials ineffective for treating disease

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP
Using antimicrobials responsibly to reduce the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance

AIM
As **little disease** with as **few antimicrobials** as possible

WHO
All farms need to **assess their approach** to antimicrobial use

HOW
Use as **few antimicrobials** as possible and **only** when needed

WHY
To **reduce** antimicrobial resistance in layer flocks

MAKE SURE YOUR FARM IS USING:

- ✓ the **right** diagnosis
- ✓ the **right** drug
- ✓ at the **right** dose
- ✓ at the **right** time
- ✓ through the **right** route
- ✓ for the **right** length of time

For more information visit **www.australianeggs.org.au**

Implementing antimicrobial stewardship on-farm

REDUCE USE

MINIMISE THE NEED FOR ANTIMICROBIALS THOUGH OPTIMISING:

- ✓ Hygiene & Sanitation
- ✓ Nutritional Management
- ✓ Biosecurity Practices
- ✓ Vaccination Program
- ✓ Animal Handling

A FEW THINGS TO ASK

- ? *Can seasonal peaks of poor health be prevented?*
- ? *Can disease be prevented through vaccination?*
- ? *Could facilities and equipment be repaired or replaced to improve disease control?*
- ? *Have biosecurity practices been reviewed for weaknesses?*

REFINE USE

1 REVIEW YOUR FARMS' CURRENT USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS

- ? *Are antimicrobials used only when prescribed by a vet?*
- ? *Are antimicrobials being used as per the manufacturer's instructions?*
- ? *Are dosages confirmed with a vet to make sure they are accurate?*
- ? *Are antimicrobials only given to hens that need it?*

Answering 'no' to any of the above indicates area for improvement.

2 ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY

Make someone responsible for monitoring and reviewing on-farm antimicrobials use.

Make all staff aware of the importance of antimicrobial stewardship.

3 MONITOR USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS

Record all events of antimicrobial administration and their outcomes. This will enable the farm to assess the success of the current approach taken to disease management:

- ? *Has the amount of antimicrobials used increased or decreased since the last flock?*
- ? *Are there usage patterns, such as hens in one shed receiving more treatment than others year on year?*
- ? *Is the first treatment enough or are hens being retreated for the same disease?*

Use these learnings to improve disease management and antimicrobial usage in future, keeping in mind the aim of **as LITTLE DISEASE with as FEW ANTIMICROBIALS AS POSSIBLE**.