

Advances in Animal Ag

Whether it is making sure that animals are getting the best care possible, using antibiotics judiciously or making major strides in food safety and sustainability, the entire animal agriculture community has improved to continuously meet consumer expectations over the years.

Pigs



More than 60,000 pig farmers and farm employees were Pork Quality Assurance Plus certified as of 2015.

Today's pig farmers use 78% less land and 41% less water than they did 50 years ago!



The National Pork Board has adopted a new three-point antibiotic stewardship plan that is proactive, collaborative and aggressive in its strategy and scope.

Pig farmers ensure safe food by focusing on 3 main areas: using good management practices; managing the health of the herd; and employing new and better technology.

Dairy Cows

94%

More than 94% of today's milk supply comes from dairy farmers enrolled in the National Dairy FARM animal care program.

The United States dairy community contributes less than 2% of total U.S. GHG emissions.

< 2%



In 2013, 99.9% of all milk tanker samples tested negative for antibiotic residues.

Milk is one of the most highly regulated food products in the United States!



Chickens



The National Chicken Council Animal Welfare Guidelines and Audit Checklist assist farmers in providing the best care for their chickens.

Before it took 16 pounds of feed for a chicken to reach a four-pound weight. Now it takes less than 7 pounds, reducing the amount of feed by more than 50%.



Chicken farmers work with veterinarians when deciding if a bird needs antibiotics.

The chicken community has reduced the occurrence of Salmonella in whole chickens by 66% since 2008.

66%

Laying Hens



The United Egg Producers Certified program guidelines are developed by world-renowned scientists and animal care experts.

Egg farmers have achieved 42% better feed conversion, 57% lower mortality and 32% less water use compared to 1960.

57%



Antibiotics are one tool farmers can use to ensure their hens are healthy.

Egg farmers have been working toward reducing pathogens on the farm for more than 10 years!



Turkeys



The National Turkey Federation has developed the Animal Care Best Management Practices manual to ensure turkey farmers have the tools they need to care for their turkeys.

It once took 29 weeks for a tom turkey to reach 35 pounds. Now it only takes 15 weeks - reducing the need for feed, therefore reducing exhaust emissions of tractors transporting grains.



Turkey farmers are committed to responsible antibiotic use to ensure their birds are healthy.

Since 2011, turkey farmers have achieved the lowest count possible of Salmonella in raw products.



Sheep & Goats



The Sheep Care Guide includes research-based guidelines in areas such as: nutrition, animal health and managing predation.

Sheep are able to graze the land to restore landscapes, manage invasive plant species and improve wildlife habitat.



Sheep farmers agree that the judicious use of antibiotics is necessary to ensure animal health and welfare.

Sheep and lamb farmers are not only committed to providing a quality fiber, but a wholesome food supply.



Beef Cattle



The Beef Quality Assurance program provides ranchers with resources and tools to ensure cattle receive the best care.

Between 1997 and 2007, beef ranchers produced each pound of beef using 19% less feed, 33% less land, 12% less water and 9% less fossil fuels.



The NCBA Producer Guidelines for Judicious Use of Antimicrobials have been in place since 1987 and are continuously updated.

The beef community invests more than \$550 million each year in beef safety and technology implementation.

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Veal



Veal farmers work with veterinarians to develop robust herd-health programs specifically designed for veal calves.

Veal farmers continually review environmental management activities for improvement and sustainability.



On-farm programs and training that seek to maximize animal health help veal farmers provide quality animal care.

All veal is inspected by federal and state agencies throughout each step of the production process to ensure food safety.



Sources:

Advances in Animal Agriculture Report, updated June 2016.



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