

Use of Antibiotics Policy

Why is this a topic for Van Loon Group?

Antibiotics are administered curatively to animals by livestock farmers when the animals are sick. To prevent the transmission of antibiotic resistance to humans, the use of antibiotics in livestock should be minimised.

Scope

As supply chain director, Van Loon Group applies the strictest legal guidelines regarding the use of antibiotics, and we monitor their use at the livestock farms in our own supply chain.

Ambition

Together with our livestock farmers and supply chain partners, we strive to minimise the use of antibiotics, without compromising animal welfare.

Van Loon Group follows EU policy on antibiotics. Since 2006, the use of antibiotics has been banned as a growth promoter. In addition, the WHO has compiled a list of antibiotics which should only be used in critical cases. Only if the bacteria involved are multi-resistant is the use of these antibiotics allowed. If farmers use antibiotics, they have to allow for a waiting period before the animal is presented for slaughter, so that there are no antibiotics residues present in the final product.

Van Loon Group monitors antibiotic use (expressed as Defined Daily Dose for Animals) among its pig and cattle farmers. In addition, Van Loon Group helps its pig farmers with 'Varken op z'n Best' (Pig at its Best) and the HyCare programme to improve hygiene on the pig farm. This improves the health of the pigs and reduces the use of antibiotics.

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