

SWIFT & COMPANY ANTIBIOTIC USE POSITION

Swift & Company is committed to providing safe, wholesome food products. An important part of our commitment is the responsible use of antibiotics as a health management tool for use with livestock to prevent, control and treat disease.

To ensure that any use of antibiotics is given thorough consideration, Swift & Company continues to examine new research that documents any impact on animal welfare as well as the safety of the food supply.

It is acknowledged in the scientific community that antibiotics advance nutritional efficiency in animals by improving nutrient utilization, resulting in healthy animal growth. The result is a more predictable supply of safe and wholesome food. Swift & Company also acknowledges that antibiotics should be used with discretion and in compliance with guidelines established under prudent use and quality assurance programs.

The use of antibiotics in food animal production is heavily regulated by both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):

- The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine is the regulatory body that approves antibiotic products for food animal use. These products meet the FDA's stringent criteria for safety, quality and effectiveness in order to ensure food safety and animal health. Swift & Company only condones the use of products that have been approved by the FDA.
- Antibiotic residue testing programs which ensure proper drug withdrawal from the animals must be followed prior to processing.
- In order to minimize the likelihood of the development of antibiotic resistance in bacteria that could affect public health, the FDA requires monitoring of any antibiotic resistance patterns in bacteria. The USDA also monitors antibiotic resistance patterns in food producing animals through the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System.

There are several most-common applications of antibiotics in food animal production:

- Therapeutic use – to treat, control and prevent disease. Withholding medicine from sick animals is inhumane, jeopardizes the safety of the food supply and, ultimately, raises the price of meat to the consumer.
- Subtherapeutic use – use of antibiotics in controlled and limited amounts to promote animal health and afford safe growth of animals.

Swift & Company supports subtherapeutic use only when there is a demonstrated health benefit. We encourage livestock producers to take all appropriate steps to decrease the need for their application, and we support research to actively seek viable alternatives to subtherapeutic use, such as probiotics.

All antibiotic use decisions must be based on what is in the best interest of public health and food safety. As always, Swift & Company will continue to explore alternative approaches to animal care and management if they will better serve the needs of our customers and the community at large.

COMPANY-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Swift Beef Company

Swift Beef Company requires our livestock suppliers to comply with FDA regulations for use of all antibiotics to manage potential residues. This requires each supplier to "certify" in writing that they have complied with the governing regulations according to FDA 21 CFR Part 589.2000 that ensures that when approved FDA pharmaceutical compounds are used, recommended withdrawal times on the label are met before slaughter.

All antibiotics used in our beef production processes are administered under the guidance of trained and certified veterinarians who follow regulations set forth by the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act and comply with the Judicious Use Guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Swift Lamb Company

There is very little therapeutic use of antibiotics in the lamb industry. Occasionally individual lambs may require treatment and only rarely do groups of animals require treatment on a metaphlactic basis. Swift & Company Lamb Division supports these practices provided FDA regulations and guidelines are met.

Subtherapeutic use of feed grade antibiotics within feedlot starter rations is a common and necessary practice within the lamb industry. These are utilized to help control enterotoxemia, which is prevalent at this point in production and can be quite devastating to the flock. Swift & Company Lamb Division supports this practice for the health and welfare of the lambs and to provide an economic stabilizing factor within the industry. This use is only supported provided all feed manufacturing registrations and requirements are met and quality assurance guidelines are followed to prevent any residue.

Swift Pork Company

Swift Pork Company requires participation by its supplying producers in the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Program Level III for judicious and responsible use of antimicrobials. Our extensive in-plant residue testing program serves as verification of producer adherence to all requirements of use.

Livestock are sampled using a test for sulfa drug residues (S.O.S) and for other residues using a more generalized screen, swab test on premises (S.T.O.P.). Should a positive sample result, the producer is notified and required to investigate for cause, make any needed adjustments, and then to submit test animals before normal livestock marketings can be resumed.

Specific Meat Programs

Swift & Company does produce meat products in specific programs that have specific requirements which do not allow the use of antibiotics (therapeutic or sub-therapeutic). Two examples are: "All natural", "Organic".

If an animal is part of these specific programs and gets ill and is treated appropriately, then this animal is removed from that specific program and its requirements.