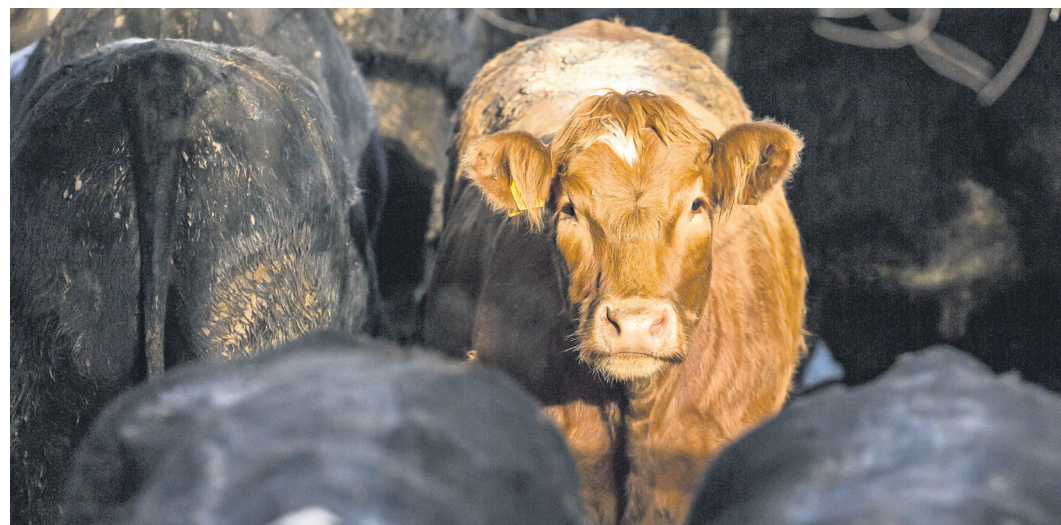


# New medicine regulations for 2022

To tackle the challenge of antibiotic resistance, there is new European legislation which will come into force in January 2022, writes Tommy Heffernan

**N**ew regulations on veterinary medicines will come into effect in January 2022 which will force us to examine the way we use antibiotics on our farms. There will be particular restrictions around the use of antibiotics for group treatments for prophylaxis (treatment of healthy animals to prevent disease in healthy animals (prophylaxis), particularly in groups of animals. The new legislation will also restrict the use of antibiotics in animals that are in contact with a sick animal diagnosed with a bacterial disease (metaphylaxis). An example of prophylaxis is the blanket use of intramammary tubes containing antibiotics in dairy cows at drying off, while an example of metaphylaxis is the feeding of CTC powder to a group of calves because a number of animals are coughing. The overarching aim of the new regulations is to protect human health by reducing antimicrobial usage in food producing animals. The new regulations include a reinforced ban on the use of antibiotics as growth promoters, as well as the following provisions and principles:

- ➔ Antibiotics must not be used routinely.
- ➔ Antibiotics must not be used to compensate for poor hygiene, inadequate animal husbandry, or poor farm management.
- ➔ Antibiotics must not be used to prevent disease, except in very exceptional circumstances.
- ➔ Antibiotics must not be administered to in-contact animals, except when the risk of the spread of an infection or infectious disease in the group of animals is high and no other appropriate alternatives are available.
- ➔ There will be increased restrictions around the prescribing and use of antibiotics (e.g. Highest Priority Critically Important antibiotics HP-CIAs).
- ➔ Veterinary prescriptions should be based on clinical examination or other



The 'One Health Antimicrobial and Anthelmintic Resistance Conference - Awareness to Action' will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Wednesday 27 November 2019.

\Philip Doyle.



IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL



An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**A joint awareness campaign by the Irish Farmers Journal and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

proper assessments  
➔ Antibiotics will be limited to the amount required for the treatment of the animal concerned and only valid for five days.

The focus of the new regulations is to protect human health first and foremost. Addressing the challenge of AMR has been the key driver for the new content in these regulations. The new regulations will require a change in the way we use antibiotics and prac-

tices such as the use of antibiotics in blanket dry cow therapy and the prophylactic or preventative use of in-feed antibiotics to alleviate the threat of disease in intensive production systems just in case animals get sick will no longer be an accepted norm. Although veterinarians, as the prescribers, are the gatekeepers of antimicrobials, farmers also have a key role to play by working with their vet to keep antibiotics effective for future generations, through improving animal health and reducing antibiotic usage on farms.

## One Health conference

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are pleased to support and participate in an upcoming conference organised by Teagasc.

The 'One Health Antimicrobial and Anthelmintic Resistance Conference - Awareness to Action' will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Wednesday 27 November 2019. The conference will focus on creating a greater awareness amongst farmers and professionals serving the agri-food industry.

There will also be an emphasis on clear concise practical actions which

can be taken on Irish farms to reduce their need to use antimicrobials and anthelmintics. The timing of the conference coincides with European Antibiotic Awareness Day on 18 November and World Antibiotic Awareness Week (18-24 November). Registration for the event is free and preregistration is a prerequisite. For further information and booking visit [www.teagasc.ie/amr-conference](http://www.teagasc.ie/amr-conference).

Thursday November 28, the day following the conference marks the inaugural animal health awareness day. This is a Department of Agriculture-led initiative to raise awareness of the importance of animal health in enhancing farm productivity, livestock sustainability, animal welfare, food safety, public health and access to international markets. There will be a seminar held in Corrin Mart on the day entitled "Animal Health, from farm to the food shelf" where these themes will be discussed in more detail. A series of events will also be held in third level and agricultural colleges to increase awareness of the importance of animal health to a vibrant livestock industry among the next generation of farmers.



VIDEO ONLINE  
watch the video on  
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# Pneumonia, fallen stock and worm resistance

2019 will be remembered as a healthy year for livestock, according to farmers

**A** number of farmers have contacted me in the last week about respiratory issues in both cows and cattle. For the most part, they sound like pneumonia problems. I continue to tell people that they need to engage with their vets around these often complicated problems. When you see respiratory symptoms, call your vet and get them to examine your animals.

While antibiotics are important, anti-inflammatories may prove equally affective in treatment regimes. A nasal swab and bloods from untreated infected animals can be taken to identify the cause.

Assess your sheds, stocking rates and ventilation, open up sheds to increase airflow and remove very sick stock. Any fallen animals must be post mortemed, as this information could really benefit future vaccine choices. Review both vaccine usage, including correct routes and timing and any disease history on the

farm, including any recent purchases or management changes in the previous two weeks.

Some vets might use live intranasal or intramuscular vaccines to stimulate immunity until test results are back. The modern vaccine can stimulate immunity in a short-term situation, but this is a call your own vet must make after taking cost benefit into account.

## Post mortems

Over the last three weeks I have talked to a number of farmers who have lost cattle or lambs. My first question is, of course, were any samples done? I am continuously surprised at how little post mortem services are utilised in Ireland. Maybe it is abortion sampling that has given farmers lack of confidence around engaging this service.

The vast majority of vets are more than willing to get stuck in and take samples on farm and even if we don't

**“** I am continuously surprised at how little post mortem services are utilised in Ireland

get animals in for full post mortems this can be a help.

We need to get better at sending these to regional veterinary labs for a more comprehensive and valuable analysis. Especially when we see more than one animal dying. My experience is that the local veterinary labs give a comprehensive service and reasonably quick turn around on results. However, some detailed analysis does take time.

Negative results create some frustration, but it all helps us to make better decisions, or more permanent solutions to prevention in the future.

## Worm resistance in lambs

I'm continuing to talk to vets and labs

with a certain degree of worry about the amount of lambs at the tail end of the season that aren't thriving. Of course, this could be caused by a number of factors, but worm resistance and parasites should be up the list. Even lambs that have been dosed with a faecal egg count should be considered to check for worm eggs.

We are now also into fluke eggs on some farms and this must be ruled out. Follow any livers to the factory. Any fallen animals' livers need to be checked as a minimum.

Lambs not thriving certainly benefit from cobalt selenium and B12, which helps to get them over the hump.

## Leptospirosis vaccines

It's good to see the letpavoid H (leptospirosis) vaccine is back in stock, as a lot of farmers have been asking about it over the last few months. Farms who are using it with a gap of over 18 months need to use two shots to stimulate immunity.