

## **One Health: a unique approach to tell the story of food production and improve consumers' confidence**

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Is One Health a buzzword or is it critical for considering the future of livestock production? We often hear the concept being referred to by regulatory agencies, opinion leaders, in position papers, articles and guidelines. The term indicates that human and animal health are interdependent and also bound to the health of the environment. The UN, OIE, WHO and FAO all acknowledge their respective responsibilities in combating diseases which have a severe impact on health and the economy, particularly animal diseases transmissible to humans.

A One Health approach is also important for food safety. For example, non-typhoidal salmonella causes significant foodborne diseases, which are the subject of strict control by government authorities. While the germ does not cause any performance loss or mortality in chickens, breeder flocks that are found positive with salmonella are being slaughtered and eggs of laying hens cannot be sold as fresh for public health reasons with very high economic cost. Keeping chickens healthy and preventing them from getting salmonella is a key focus of poultry companies to protect public health – a One Health approach.

Another example is the fight against antibiotic resistance and the use of antibiotics in farm animals. Antibiotics are important tools farmers and veterinarians use to ensure the health of animals, as well as the safety of our food supply. They are one tool among others. Farmers and veterinarians work closely together to design and implement comprehensive animal health and welfare programs that take into account quality diets, clean and comfortable housing, disease prevention as well as other factors. When antibiotics are used, they must be used responsibly (eg start with classes not used in humans as per WHO guidelines ) and under strict veterinary guidance.

All stakeholders must work together in order to avoid antibiotic resistance in people while at the same time preserve the efficacy of antibiotics in livestock production – a One Health approach.

As the global population grows, so does the demand for meat, milk and eggs, followed closely by growing consumer interest in how meat, milk and eggs are produced. Stakeholders have a responsibility to improve the availability of accurate information about food to help consumers in their choices. How can we increase consumers' confidence in the food industry by developing positive claims rather than playing with their fears?

One Health offers a way of telling relatable stories about food choices that support shared efforts to protect people, animals and the planet – underpinned by decisions, policies and actions based on science. We must make decisions that optimize the health of people, animals and the planet, not maximize one at the expense of others, or maximize profit at the expense of all three – a One Health approach.

At Elanco we bring the animal to the centre of the debate; we want to play our part to improve consumers' confidence in today's food production by proactively telling the story of well-cared, healthy animals being at the core of a sustainable livestock production. One Health is part of our vision.

1 REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 November 2003

2 New Performance Standards for Salmonella and Campylobacter in Not-Ready-to-Eat Comminuted Chicken, February 11, 2016, Food Safety and Inspection Service

WHO GUIDELINES ON USE OF MEDICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIMICROBIALS IN FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS, 2017

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