



## SUSTAINABLE USE OF ANTIBIOTIC MEDICATION AT VALIOGROUP DAIRY FARMS

Antibiotic medication is used in animal production very sustainably in Finland. On a European scale, veterinary antimicrobials are used moderately in Finland. Comparative data on the consumption of antimicrobials in different countries can be obtained from the results of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project.

Only authorized veterinarians can prescribe antibiotics to animals and the prescribing veterinarian must ensure the diagnosis for which he/she prescribes the antibiotics. Narrow spectrum antimicrobials are preferred, and medication is administered to individual animals instead of groups. All treatments must be given and recorded individually, and quarantine periods are prescribed by Finnish legislation. All treated cow's milk must be tested residue-free before milk can be sent to a dairy plant. Control samples is taken from each farm during milk collection for inspection in case of antibiotic positive result at later stages.

Finland has set up a special Animal Health Care System for cattle and the system includes Centralized Health Care Register Naseva. All Valiogroup dairy farms are associated with Naseva register and they are co-operating with farm's health care veterinarian regularly. The Naseva register contains data concerning health care management plan, cattle's health status, production data and medical treatments of animals on a dairy farm.

Valiogroup dairy farms comply with requirements of the national and EU's animal medication legislation. Sustainable use of medication on Valiogroup dairy farms is also included in Valio's Sustainable Dairy Farm Program. All dairy farms delivering milk to Valio dairies are obliged to follow Valio's the best milk production practices that include also good farming practices of animal medication. Compliance with Valio's Sustainable Dairy Farm Program is monitored by dairy farm advisors of Valio's cooperatives. All farms' practices of antibiotic use is also monitored by Finnish authorities.

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