



# Maple Leaf Foods and our use of antibiotics in the animals we raise

Antibiotics are important for animal and human health and we recognise the importance of using them judiciously to support their continued effectiveness.

**We NEVER  
use antibiotics  
to promote  
animal growth.**



We have eliminated the preventative use of the most medically important antibiotics in all of our operations.

Maple Leaf Foods offers a number of pork and poultry products from animals Raised Without Antibiotics (RWA).

We are helping shape stronger Canadian regulations and industry programs that enhance veterinary oversight of medications used for all farm animals.

Our veterinarians develop health plans that minimize the use of antibiotics for the animals we raise.

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# Q&A

### **Q** Are there antibiotics in meat?

**A** An animal cannot enter the food system unless any medication it received ended by a specific time before processing. Veterinarians or farmers who administer antibiotics must keep records verifying when they were given to the animal and food inspectors have a surveillance program to help ensure no residues are found in meat.

### **Q** What is antibiotic resistance?

**A** Bacteria can become resistant to specific antibiotics over time, surviving after they have been exposed to a specific antibiotic that would normally be expected to kill them.

### **Q** Why are antibiotics used in farm animals?

**A** For the same reason they are used with people and pets: to treat and control diseases. Their use, however, must be judicious. We have curtailed the use of the most medically important antibiotics in our own animals, support greater

veterinary oversight of medications used for all animals and work with our industry partners to reduce the use of antibiotics.

### **Q** Are there ways to treat sick animals or birds without using antibiotics?

**A** We are constantly looking for ways to reduce the use of antibiotics. This includes developing strategies to reduce illnesses on our farms, adopting more comprehensive vaccination programs to prevent diseases and strengthen natural immunities, and enhancing our biosecurity to reduce exposure to disease.

### **Q** What happens if animals in your Raised Without Antibiotics program become sick? How do you treat them?

**A** If an animal gets sick, we will work with our veterinarians to consider all options. If this involves using antibiotics, then the animal will be removed from the RWA program.