“The EU Ban on Use of Antibiotics for Growth Promotion in Agriculture: Review of Scientific Evidence and Implications for Public Health”

Questions for APUA Roundtable Delegates

Purpose of the APUA Roundtable:
- To discuss in depth the EU and individual country bans on use of antibiotics for livestock growth promotion; Have the bans been successful to date in the EU? If so, why? If not, why? What are different country experiences? Do you see the ban as well established or is it relatively new?

- Review EU and individual country policies and the processes involved in implementing the ban. What can European countries learn from one another? What could the U.S. learn from implementation of the ban? What are the key issues?

- To respond to/comment on arguments coming from U.S. industry that the European ban has been a failure.

Topics to Address

Scientific evidence and impetus for change
- What actions/events led up to the ban?

- Were there opponents to the ban? If so, who were they and what were their arguments?

- What was the state of scientific knowledge and data collection on antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance at the time of the ban?

- Was there resistance to the scientific evidence at the time the ban was implemented?

Consequences to human and animal health
- What effect has the EU/country specific ban had on animal health?

- What effect has the EU/country specific ban had on human health?

- Have there been significant differences in antimicrobial susceptibility to specific antibiotics in bacteria originating from animals and people? What is the evidence
related to intestinal bacteria from healthy animals?

**Evolution of monitoring systems: evidence from monitoring systems**

- What has been and what is the role of surveillance and monitoring antimicrobial consumption/use in animals? In humans? (EARSS, ESAC)? What power/influence do they wield in the EU and with its members?

- How effective are these programs and are they utilized by members of the EU to better control antibiotic use?

**Implementation of EU/country-specific ban: experience and perspectives from various countries**

- In implementing the ban in Europe, what were the greatest obstacles to removing antibiotics for growth promotion in food animal production?

- What problems did farmers face? How have those problems been addressed?

- Were there any problems in monitoring and reporting? How have those problems been addressed?

- What are current opinions on the ban?

**Effects of the EU/Country Specific Ban**

- What has been effective about the ban on antibiotic use in agriculture?

- What are the costs and benefits of the ban on use of antibiotics for growth promotion in industrial food animal production? (production, health, and consumer impacts)

- What effect has the EU/country specific ban had on agricultural industry with respect to methods of production? What specific adaptive techniques did farmers adopt? Are other antimicrobials used more frequently today?

**Lessons Learned**

- Given your experience with the ban, what recommendations would you make for other countries that may want to follow the EU’s example?