

## Why are antibiotics used in the Flemish pork and white veal industry?

*A participatory study to identify factors that drive antibiotic use.*

### Background

To further reduce AMU in the Belgian livestock sector, the Belgian national action plan mainly foresees a shift from curative veterinary medicine to a more preventive approach. This can be achieved through a combination of technical innovations (such as improved infrastructure, new drugs or diagnostic tools) and behavioural change towards better health management. While the way forward is known and accepted by many actors in the Belgian livestock sector, the development of sustainable solutions and their implementation in practice is not always straightforward.

### Author(s)

Fanny Baudoin (ILVO), Henk Hogeveen (WUR), Erwin Wauters (ILVO)

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A participatory approach, antimicrobial use, livestock production

### Problem

Antimicrobial free labels lead to little price premiums according to stakeholders. Considering the importance of antimicrobial resistance, how can the producer's organization commit to reducing their antimicrobial use in an economically sound way?

### Solution

To better understand what is hampering the implementation of solutions and to add to the current knowledge, we identified drivers of antimicrobial use in the Flemish pork and white veal sectors at a more meso-level through a participatory approach. Diverse stakeholders of both sectors were involved in the identification of social, technical, economic and institutional factors that may influence AMU in their sector and/or act as a barrier for a further reduction of AMU. The sectors were chosen according to their different contributions to the total AMU of Belgian animal production and their different structures

### Outcome

The focus group participants for the Flemish pig industry identified a total of 57 underlying factors that were reported to influence antimicrobial use. For the veal industry, participants identified 50 underlying factors. In analyzing the data, these factors were clustered into 15 main themes, seven of which were found to be rather specific to a particular sector, five common to both sectors, and three common to both sectors but had different implications depending on the sector.

### Practical recommendations

- Some factors influence AMU differently depending on the sector, most likely due to the structural differences between the sectors
- Different approaches are needed to address AMU in both sectors

### Follow ROADMAP

