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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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New Antibiotics Strategy

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Approved By:

Kelly Stange

Prepared By:

Leif Erik Rehder

Report Highlights:

The Federal Cabinet has approved the new German Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy (DART 2020) on May 13, 2015. DART 2020 continues and strengthens the German antibiotic resistance strategy which started in 2008.

General Information:

In Germany, the fight against the formation and spread of multi-resistant germs will be even more determined in the future. For this, the Federal Cabinet adopted the German Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy (DART 2020) on May 13, 2015. The Federal Ministry of food and agriculture has developed a six-point plan to reduce antibiotic resistance in human and veterinary medicine together with the Federal Ministries of Health and Research. This six-point plan states:

1. Close co-operation between ministries and with international organizations.
2. Monitoring systems should be strengthened in order to detect new pathogens and drug resistance at an early stage and to obtain representative data for all of Germany.
3. For human and veterinary medicine, the diagnosis should be improved and the implementation of hygiene measures will be promoted.
4. An optimization of methods in animal husbandry.
5. In order to curb the spread of resistant germs, the education of the public as well as by physicians and veterinarians will be intensified.
6. Finally, the federal government wants to expand the research, and to put an emphasis on interdisciplinary projects. The spectrum will range from basic research to the emergence and dissemination of resistance to the development of new diagnostic tools and medicines there.

Federal Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt stated that “the interagency German antibiotic resistance strategy runs with all stakeholders since 2008. We are well on our way, which we continue with DART 2020. If antibiotics in animal husbandry are used when conditions for livestock are not appropriate, these grievances have to be removed. Infections must be avoided and infection chains need to be interrupted at an early stage. Therefore, measures of the animal welfare initiative act in both senses positive: For the benefit of the animals without using antibiotics and also serving the people, because the less antibiotics are used the less resistance are formed.”

Criticism of DART 2020 came from the opposing Green party in the German parliament. For the Green party, the federal government has recognized the dangers of antimicrobial resistance, but the strategy does not go far enough. Friedrich Ostendorff, agriculture spokesman for the Greens, stated that the most important aspect remains unmentioned in DART which is avoiding the development of resistance. The primary objective within such a strategy should be maximum animal health to avoid diseases and the use of antibiotics. Animal welfare with low stock limits, reasonable performance level for each animal, with more outlet, space, light, activities and intensive livestock management, is known to promote a high level of animal health. Regrettably, this is not the case in the majority of the German livestock holdings. Furthermore, DART drastically underestimates the problem of high use of reserve antibiotics in livestock. Germany is among the front-runners for using of antibiotics in animal husbandry. For Ostendorff, DART should at the very least ban the use of reserve antibiotics.

Please see GAIN reports for more information about antibiotics in animal husbandry.

http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Germany%20plans%20to%20reduce%20the%20use%20of%20antibiotics%20in%20animal%20husbandry%20_Berlin_Germany_10-2-2012.pdf
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Stricter%20Control%20On%20Antibiotics%20in%20Animal%20Husbandry%20Germany_10-2-2012.pdf

[20In%20Animal%20Husbandry_Berlin_Germany_11-9-2011.pdf](#)

Please see GAIN report for more information about animal welfare initiative:

http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Broad%20Initiative%20to%20increase%20Animal%20Welfare_Berlin_Germany_8-6-2014.pdf