Antibiotic free pig production

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FVE

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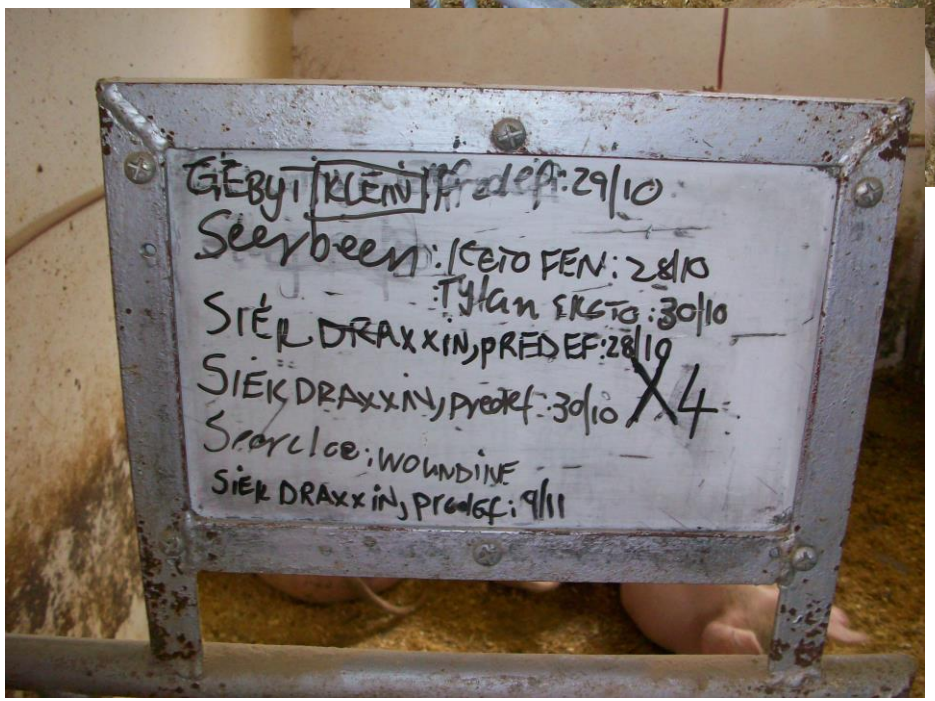
CHAMPION
Beesvleis
PROMOSIE
Bülida
•PREMIUM PORK•
Guaranteed:
• Hormone free
• Antibiotic free
• Growth Stimulant free
• Boar taint free
• Stress free
Naturally the very best PORK


GEBYT KLEIN
Seerbeen
SIEK DRAXXIN, PREDEF: 28/10
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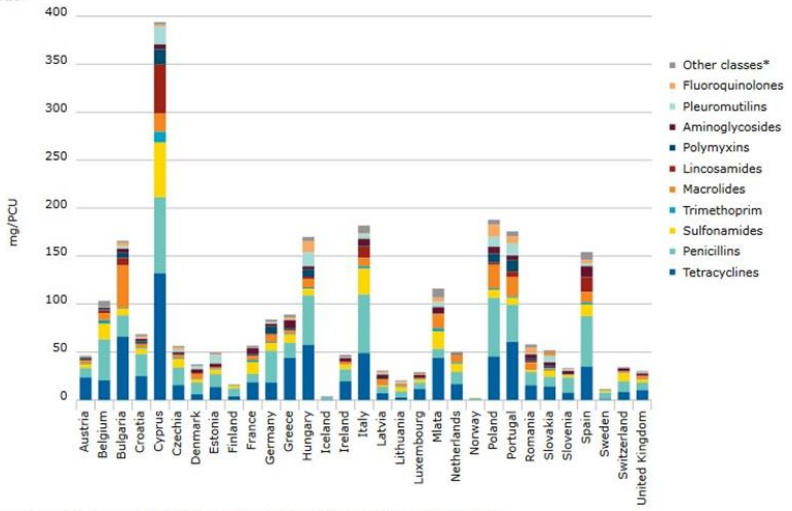
Use of antibiotics in the EU

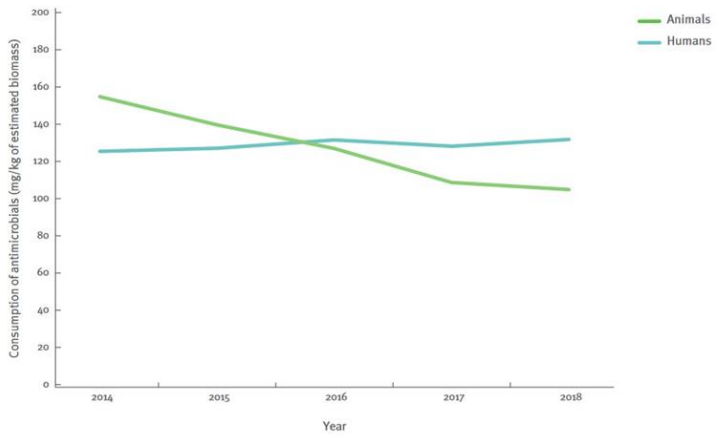
- Todays the daily business of veterinarians in the european swine industry is to keep animals healthy (avoid treatments)
- In many countries we have systems to control and reduce antibiotic treatments (e.g. Germany, France, Denmark, Netherlands etc.)

Figure 2. Sales for food-producing animals, in mg/PCU, of the various antimicrobial classes, for 31 European countries, in 2020[1]



*'Other classes' includes amphenicols, cephalosporins, other quinolones and 'Others'.
[1] Differences between countries can be partly explained by differences in animal demographics, occurrence of bacterial diseases, selection of antimicrobial agents, dosage regimes, types of data source, and veterinarians' prescribing habits.

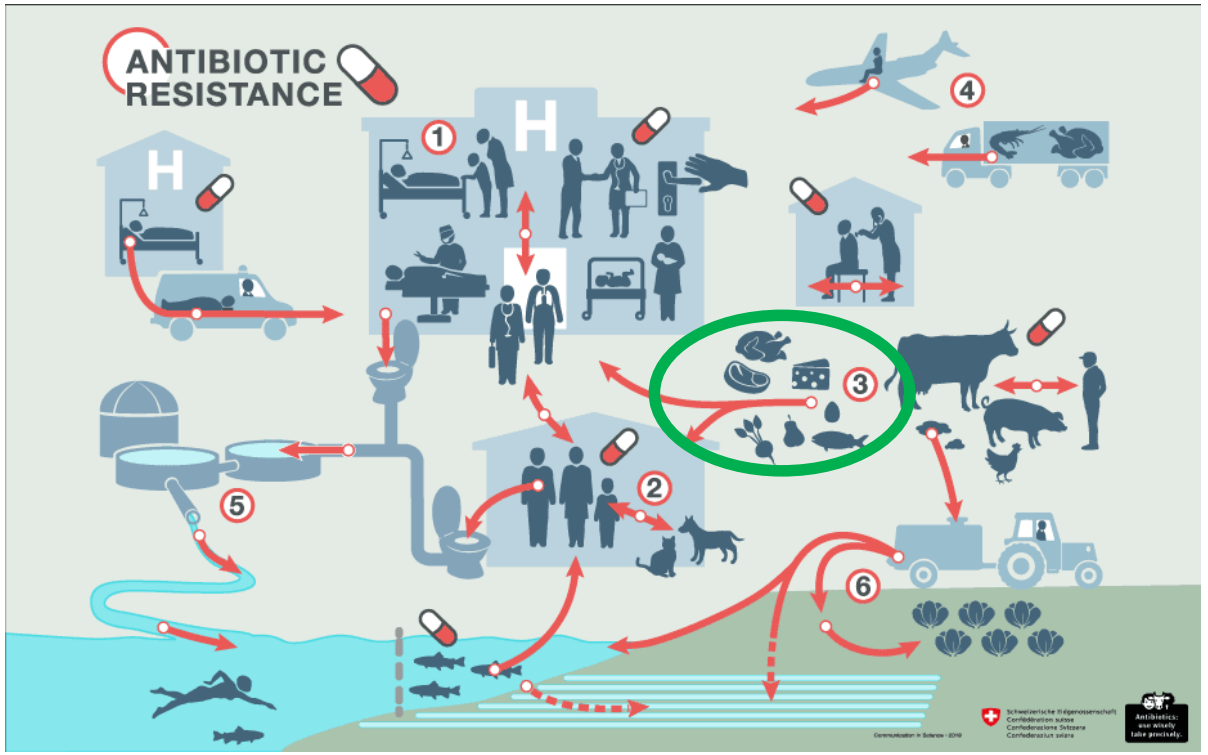
Figure III: Population-weighted mean of the total consumption of antimicrobials in humans[(a)] and food-producing animals[(b)] in 27 EU/EEA countries[(c)] for which data were available for both humans and food-producing animals, for 2014–2018



(a) For humans: ATC J01 Antibacterials for systemic use.
(b) For food-producing animals: ATCvet QA07AA, QA07AB, QG01AA, QG01AE, QG01BA, QG01BE, QG51AA, QG51AG, QJ01, QJ51, QP51AG
(c) AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK.

Resistance to antibiotics

- A very complex system
- How big is the influence of animals to resistance in humans?
- How much meat contributes to resistance humans?



https://www.richtig-ist-wichtig.ch/antibiotikaresistenz-betrifft-mensch-tier-und-umwelt/

Current status?

- Today we have in Europe already many pigs which are raised up without the need of an antibiotic treatment
- There will always be a need to treat animals
- Even in biological production it is allowed to treat pigs (in Germany mostly only once)
- pigs loose their “biological status” if they are treated twice
- this is raising in some cases welfare problems due to economical decisions of the farmer

Food security

- In some cases we need to treat animals to assure food security for the consumer
- As we have in Europe, compared to other regions of the world, strict and long waiting times after treatments the pig meat is “free of antibiotics”

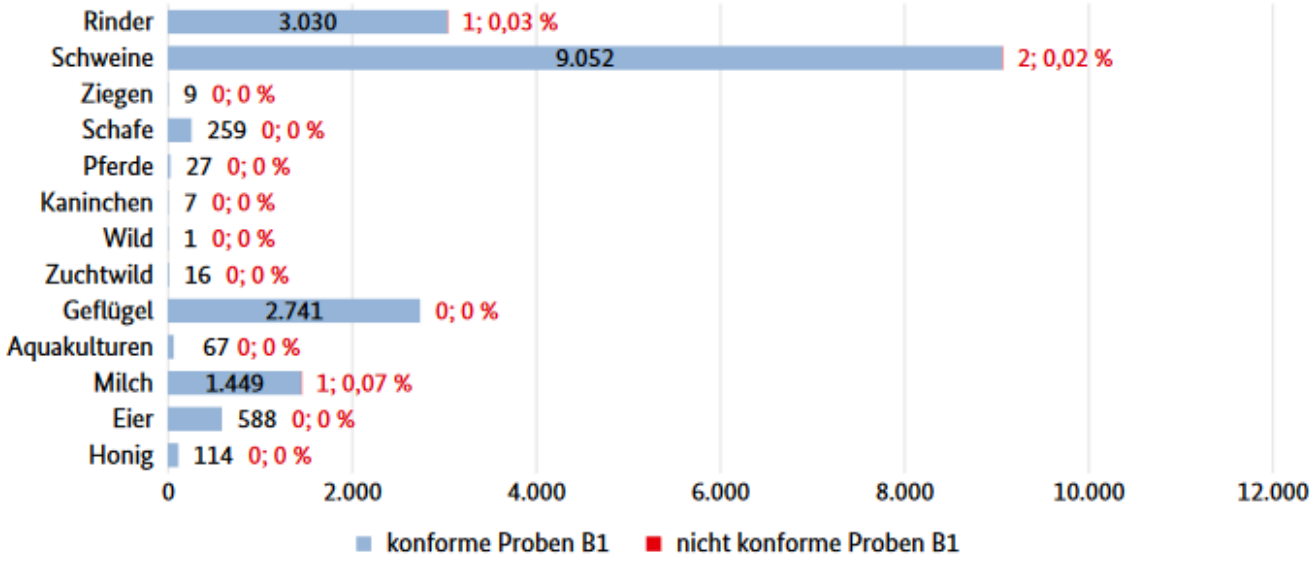


Abb. 2.9 Planproben 2020; Anzahl der konformen und nicht konformen Proben je Tierart/Erzeugnis, Stoffgruppe B1

Thoughts about goals of „AB free production“

- No treatment of sick animals“ 
- optimize production as much as we can to avoid any treatment 
- No growth promotion or unnecessary treatments 
- Animals get a correct treatment if they need it 

Concerns

In every production animals can become sick

- How do we treat these animals?
- When do we start to treat animals (timing)?
- How do we treat them (individually vs group)?

Questions

- How to communicate a very complex system to the consumer
- What means „antibiotic free“ pig production in real life?
- What is the marketing goal of „antibiotic free“ production?
- What will the consumer think about the campaign? And what will he think about the rest of the animals/meat („they are contaminated with antibiotics?“)

Summary

- As veterinarian in the pig industry I understand and can support the goal (as it is already the ideal idea of pig production today in EU)
- But even in the best and healthiest production system pig can become sick and need a treatment

- I have big concerns about undesirable effects on animals welfare
- Also I see problems of communication to the consumer and undesirable effects on the “rest of the meat”
- Everything is a question of economics