



Animal health in Finnish farms

Long history of disease-free status

- A strategy of eradication of contagious diseases from cattle population long time before EU

Control programs of Brucellosis, TB, leukosis, IBR, BVD, Salmonella and EHEC

- After joining to EU 1995 the work continues, but reformed in EU context (officially vs. voluntarily):

Farmers and industry agreed to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases to Finnish cattle population



Association **Animal Health ETT** ry was founded 1995

ETT – our
"secret
weapon"!



Animal Health ETT ry – our secret weapon:

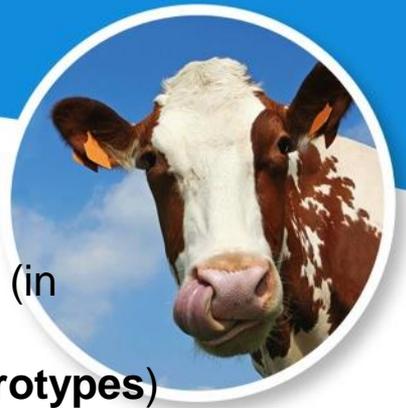


- Association to prevent diseases in animal husbandry in Finland
- Guidelines how to **import** live animals and semen safely without importing diseases, strengthening biosecurity (inner and outer) measures
- Voluntary control programs and eradication, **health certificates**
- Herd health monitoring system (Naseva and Sikava)
- Web-based recording system for farmers and industry
- Monitoring diseases, alerts for outbreaks
- Consultation of eradication procedure
- "Positive list" of feed manufacturers free from Salmonella
- Projects, campaigns, research,...

Measures to improve animal health and welfare widely engaged by Finnish farmers



Finland's disease-free status/cattle:



Officially free B- and C-listed diseases (Finland is free from EU legislation all A-list diseases) f. ex.

- Tuberculosis TB
- Brucellosis
- Bovine viral diarrhoea BVD
- Bovine leukosis
- Bovine spongiform encephalitis BSE, scrapie (sheep and goats)
- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis IBR
- Foot and mouth disease FMD
- Blue tongue- BT virus
- Aujeszky disease –ADV, etc

Official control programs (in national legislation):

- Salmonellosis (**all serotypes**)
- Maedi-visna
- CAE (goats)

Voluntary control programs:

- Ringworm (*Trichophyton verrucosum*)
- *Mycoplasma bovis*

Animal Health and Welfare on Finnish farms:

- Good animal health is essential part of the animal welfare – free from diseases, injuries and pain
- Animal health best promoted by good management, good feeding, good animal welfare and keeping diseases out of the farm
- Voluntary herd health monitoring system (Naseva for cattle, Sikava for pigs) largely applied by farmers
- Salmonella control programs ensure the **salmonella-free animal production** (programs in legislation) – also promoting comprehensive biosecurity on the farms
- New national Animal Welfare Act approved, enforcing beginning of 2024, changes coming



Farmers: very cost-effective to keep the diseases away from farm

Strategy chosen by Finnish farmers: High-quality production

”Clean, safe and sustainable food production”

- **Reducing the need of antimicrobials through keeping the animals as health as possible**
- Biosecurity and disease control –programs decrease diseases
- Optimised management and husbandry support animal health
- Animal welfare – legislation, official controls, voluntary schemes
- Awareness and information, voluntary Heard Health systems
- Antibiotics only used for veterinary therapy, not as a preventive tool
- **When antimicrobials are needed, prudent-use guidance applied for veterinarians**



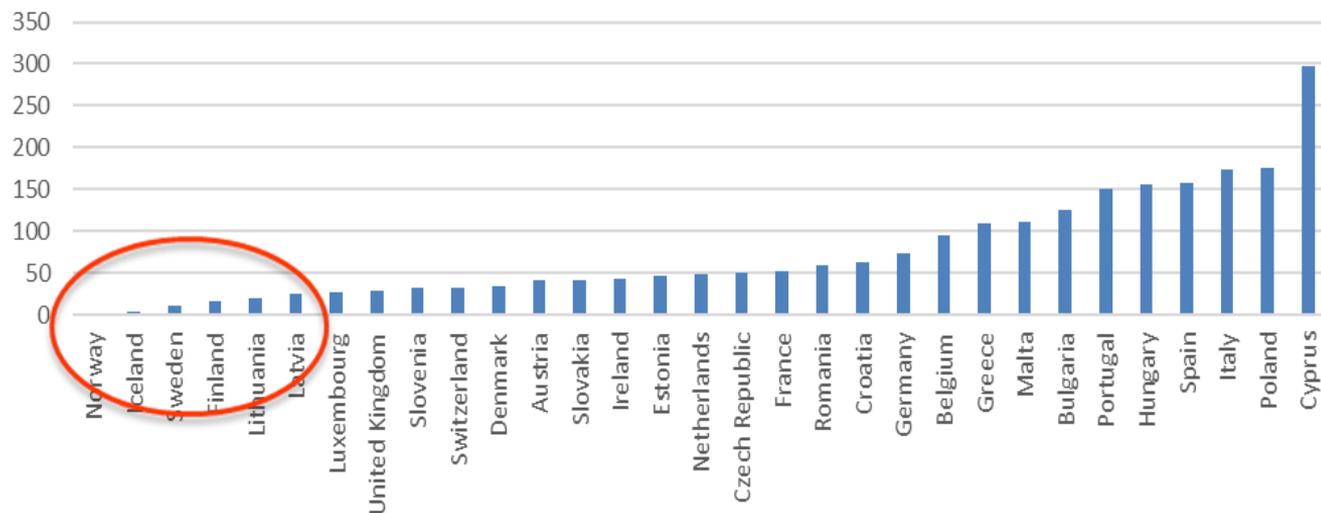
Voluntary
measures -
agreed by all food
industry actors



Sales of antimicrobials used farm animals in 31 countries in Europe year 2021



Mikrobilääkkeiden myynti 2021 tuotantoeläinkäyttöön 2021
Euroopan 31 valtiossa (mg/PCU population corrected unit) (ESVAC
raportti 2022)



4 Nordic countries are the less-antimicrobials-sold countries in Europe 2021

No antibiotics given for broilers since 2009



In Finland...

- Penicillin was the most sold antimicrobial for food-producing animals -> **narrow spectrum antimicrobials** mainly used
- 95% of sold penicillin were injectable -> **individual treatments** preferring, not group treatments
- sales of 3rd and 4th gen cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones very low -> **strict antibiotic policy of critically important antimicrobials**
- **Prudent-use guidelines (since 1996 in Finland) largely applied by veterinarians, and farmers strongly engaged**

AMR issues important for farmers...



- Residues in food, water and environment should be as minimal as possible (responsibility, sustainability, clean production)
- Veterinarian's essential role as a "gatekeeper" (prescription, professionalism, awareness)
- Monitoring system for used drugs on species level cost-effective and light as possible (work in progress)
- New EU legislative frame for **use** of antimicrobials in animal husbandry ready
- Finnish farmers: Preventive use without diagnosis should be restricted
- **Good AMR situation in Finland should be maintained, the measures taken have been proven to be effective: we are going to right direction in our antibiotic policy!**

Any possibilities to reduce antibiotics further?



In Finland:

”Healthy animals do not need antibiotics”

”Antibiotics should be given only if needed”

”Veterinarians do not take any profit from selling drugs”

BUT STILL...

...**the disease challenges** in Finnish animal husbandry:

- Respiratory diseases in calf rearing units
- Arthritis and injuries in pigs
- Mastitis in dairy cows (drying-off- intramammaries)

As little as possible, but as much as necessary...