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USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

OSI Group supports the international consensus that that livestock producers, working with their veterinarians, are in the best position to ensure the prudent and judicious use of antibiotics¹ in food animal production consistent with animal and public health protection, while ensuring the ability to treat animals and maintaining the highest standard of animal welfare practices. Optimal animal health and welfare is not only good for producers, it is good for the rest of the food production chain, and it is essential to helping ensure a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply.

OSI Group companies purchase raw material from OSI Group approved, externally inspected facilities, where all animals have undergone ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections. The company is also actively involved in producer organizations to further the advancement of producers' quality assurance programs which educate producers on best practices. We recognize and believe that farmers and ranchers work diligently to manage their livestock in the best manner possible. They do so through a combination of sound husbandry practices, including genetics, nutrition, housing, handling, and veterinary care.

In accordance with national regulations, labels of approved animal drugs must include very clear "withdrawal time" requirements. Similarly, OSI Group adheres to and sets clear expectations for our raw material suppliers who purchase livestock. When antibiotics are administered, our facilities and suppliers have protocols in place to ensure that the animals are not introduced into the food supply until the medicines have sufficiently cleared the animals' systems. To that end, our suppliers require their livestock producers to work with a licensed veterinarian.

OSI Group supports global principles on veterinary drug usage policies to achieve animal health goals. OSI supports the WHO's categorization of antibiotics, to include those antimicrobials designated as critically important to human medicine. OSI supports efforts of our suppliers to implement animal production practices that reduce, and where possible eliminate, sub-therapeutic antibiotic use in food animals and adopt best practices that would result in subsequent reductions of antibiotic use.

Through its participation in industry associations, OSI Group will continue to support ongoing and future research that can be utilized to treat animals and further understand how resistance is developed in humans and animals.

¹ 2005 Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), "Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance" (Code of Practice)