



Hormonal Growth Promotant and Antibiotic use in New Zealand Cattle

Hormonal Growth Promotants

Use of Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP's) is permitted in New Zealand for beef production only. This use is tightly regulated by law¹, through the HGP Regulated Control Scheme, and is for the purposes of feed efficiency in a very small percentage of animals (see note below).

Hormonal growth promotants are prescription medicines that may only be administered by a veterinarian, a trained technician or under the supervision of either.

A national data base of animals treated with HGP's is maintained, and treated animals are permanently identified with an ear tag.

Tagged animals are separated at slaughter so that any HGP meat or meat products can be clearly identified. Treated animals must be processed separately from non treated animals.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) regularly audits farms, vet practices and slaughter premises to verify that the requirements for HGP use are being met.

Due to the EU ban on HGP's, the importance of the EU as a trading partner to New Zealand, and the additional processing burden for HGP treated animals, the use of HGP's in this country is declining², and is already extremely limited in scope. Statistics collected for 2015/2016 showed < 0.0001% of beef cattle were treated with HGP's, down from a figure of 0.03% a decade ago.

More detailed information on the use and regulation of Hormonal Growth Promotants in New Zealand can be found at

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety/whats-in-our-food/chemicals-and-food/agricultural-compounds-and-residues/hormonal-growth-promotants/>

Antibiotic Use

Since 2002, antibiotics have not been permitted to be used for growth promotion purposes in New Zealand livestock³.

Pharmaceutical companies voluntarily supplied antibiotic sales statistic information to the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)⁴ from 2000, and this has been a requirement by law since 2002. This information is used to compile annual sales survey's on antibiotic use in animals.

There is little routine use of antibiotics in the beef industry. Antibiotics are used more commonly in the dairy industry, however this use is not as a mass medication in feed or water, but therapeutically, mainly for the treatment of mastitis.

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¹ Agricultural compounds approved for use in New Zealand are subject to the provisions of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, the Food Act 1981, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, the Animal Products Act 1999, and their relevant regulations and standards.. Each piece of legislation includes penalties that can be imposed for misuse.

² A brief history of HGP use in New Zealand. Elanco Animal Health

³ www.nzfsa.govt.nz/publications/media-responses/whatsinyourfood.htm

⁴ Note, since 2013 the NZFSA has been renamed the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)