

IN-FEED ANTIMICROBIAL USE (AMU) IN CANADIAN FEEDLOT CATTLE 2019-2022

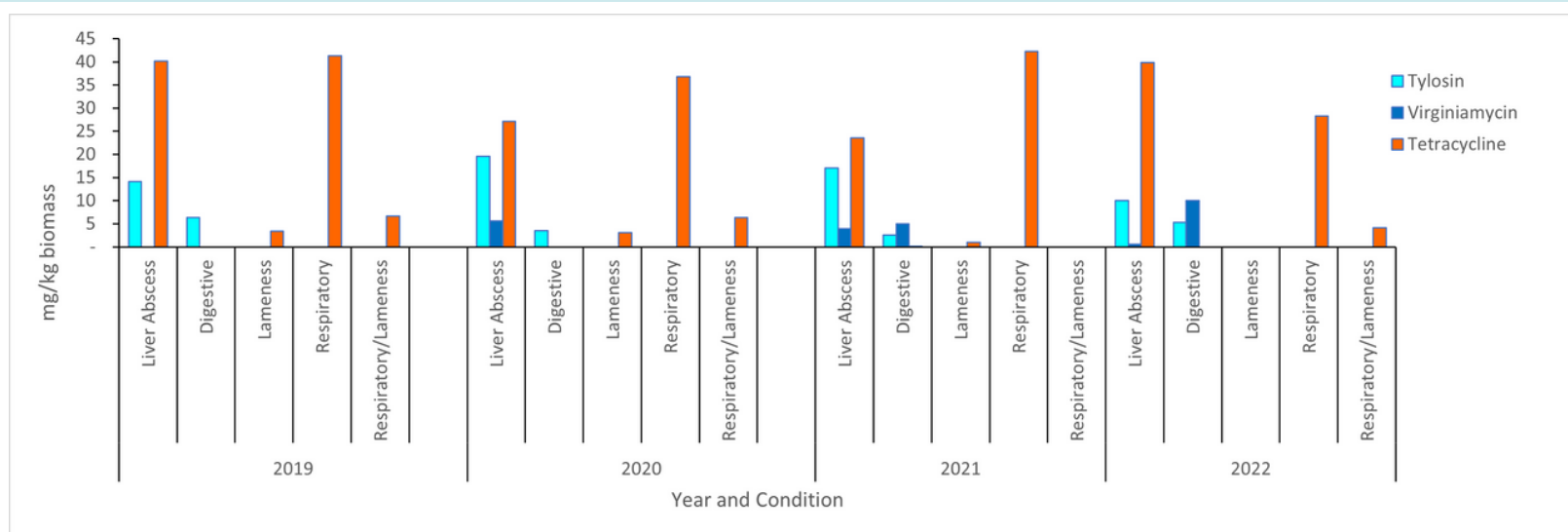


- AMU (antimicrobial use) data were collected annually from approximately 143,000 head of cattle in 523 randomly selected lots from 25 finishing feedlots in AB, SK and ON during 2019 to 2022.
- Calves represented 38% (254 DOF), yearlings 60% (181 DOF), and cows 1% (100 DOF) of the production lots.
- Ninety-seven percent of all antimicrobials used in feedlot cattle were administered in the feed.



NO ANTIMICROBIALS OF VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE IN HUMAN MEDICINE* WERE USED IN THE FEED.

- Tylosin and virginiamycin, classes of antimicrobials of high importance in human medicine*, were used in the feed to reduce liver abscesses.
- Tetracycline, an antimicrobial of medium importance in human medicine*, was the most used in-feed antimicrobial from 2019-2022, controlling liver abscesses, bovine respiratory disease (BRD), and Histophilosis, which are economically important production limiting diseases in Canadian feedlot cattle.



IN-FEED USE OF MEDICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIMICROBIALS DECREASED BY 12% FROM 2019 TO 2022 (MG ACTIVE INGREDIENT/KG ANIMAL BIOMASS)+.



- The largest reduction in antimicrobial use in feedlot cattle would occur if cost-effective alternatives, such as vaccines, natural feed additives or practical management changes, could be identified to reduce liver abscesses. Research actively continues in this area.
- **Current use of in-feed antimicrobials should be re-evaluated at least annually with your veterinarian and nutritionist, to identify ways to reduce use, based on the latest research, a review of your feedlot's disease risks and cattle performance, and related management practices.**

+ mg active ingredient/kg animal mass = (mgs of all active ingredients administered in the feed during the feeding period), divided by (the number of animals at risk multiplied by the annual average animal body weight at slaughter). Average slaughter weight from 2019 to 2022 was 666 kg.

Information above does not include ionophores, such as monensin, lasalocid, and salinomycin. Ionophores represented 48% of all in-feed use of antimicrobials in feedlot cattle from 2019-2022. They were used to prevent coccidiosis, reduce gas bloat, and improve performance. They are not considered medically important because they are rarely used in human medicine*.

* For more information on Health Canada Veterinary Drug Directorate's classes of antimicrobials of importance in human medicine, click [here](#) to view the **Antimicrobial and Antibiotic Backgrounder for Feedlot Cattle**.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AMU/AMR IN CANADIAN FEEDLOT CATTLE ON OUR WEBSITE.



**QUESTIONS?
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AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
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