

The Agriculture Department promotes reasonable use of medicines in the livestock sector to avoid developing tolerance to antibiotics, fungi, viruses and parasites

Senasica led the 'National Awareness Week' on the use of antimicrobials, and agreed with producers and the academy to strengthen the National Action Strategy against Antimicrobial Tolerance (RAM).



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development will strengthen, with academic, scientific and producer organizations, the media campaign for spreading the National Action Strategy against Antimicrobial Tolerance (RAM) to promote the reasonable use of this type of drugs.

The strategy fosters the collaboration work among ministries with the objective of reducing the incidence of RAM in the sectors of public health, agriculture and environment. The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) contributes with actions aimed at improving the capacity of veterinary doctors in the treatment of infectious diseases.

In recent days, Senasica held the National Awareness Week on the use of Antimicrobials in Animals, in accordance with the campaign operated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to reduce the use of antibiotics.

Within this framework, Rogelio Estrada Rodríguez, Director of the National Animal Health Diagnostic Services Center (CENASA) of Senasica, led a meeting with representatives of the ministries and academic, civil, and productive organizations, to whom he presented the dissemination strategy operated by the Agriculture Department.

He stated that, in the livestock sector, veterinary doctors and producers use more than three thousand antimicrobial products, mainly in the fight against organisms such as *salmonella* spp., *escherichia coli*, *enterococcus* ssp. and *campylobacter* spp.

He noted that Senasica has complied with the Agreement declaring the mandatory nature of the National Strategy for Action against RAM, published in the Federal Official Gazette in June 2018, mainly in the sections of dissemination and connection with academic institutions.

He indicated that Senasica has a micro website where recommendations for veterinary doctors, producers and consumers can be found. This allows to meet the objective of increasing the dissemination of the appropriate use of antimicrobial products in order to achieve a 20 % increase in raising awareness of the issue among the population.

He pointed out that, in the last two years, the General Directorate of Animal Health participated in 25 forums alluding to the RAM, with the assistance of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the American Committee of Veterinary Drugs (Camevet) and the International Regional Agency for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), among others.

In these meetings, he explained, more than 1,500 people attended and dissemination actions were established on the websites of the participating organizations.

Regarding linkages, he commented that Senasica managed with different higher education institutions the establishment –as a compulsory course in the training of veterinary doctors– of the subject of Proper use of antimicrobials. Universities have shown willingness to adapt their curricula in the medium term, he stressed.

RAM occurs when the use of antibiotics is abused and bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites become resistant and become immune to this type of drugs, resulting in antimicrobials becoming ineffective and in infections persisting in the animals, and increases the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The excess and misuse of antibiotics in livestock, aquaculture and crops contributes to the RAM and its spread in the environment, the food chain and in humans.