

**Advice 04-2015 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of the study 'Antimicrobial resistance in indicator commensal bacteria from livestock in Belgium: trend analysis 2011-2013'**

The FASFC yearly orders a monitoring of the antimicrobial resistance of commensal intestinal bacteria (*E. coli*, *Enterococcus faecium* and *Enterococcus faecalis*) of different animal species/categories: veal calves, young cattle (<8m), fattening pigs and broilers. The submitted study describes a trend analysis of the results of the monitoring for antimicrobial resistance amongst these indicator bacteria during the period 2011-2013.

The Scientific Committee is asked to validate this study and to describe the missing elements to render the study suitable to serve as a template for the annual report on the trend analysis regarding antimicrobial resistance of indicator bacteria of livestock in Belgium.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that this study is very interesting and allows to have an idea about the evolution of antimicrobial resistance, but that the results have to be considered as preliminary. Given the uncertainties in the sampling plan and the short timeframe, it is too early to identify real trends. For the time being it is recommended to present the results only in a descriptive manner. If a statistical analysis is yet to be performed, the limitations of this analysis should be clearly stated and one should be extremely careful with the conclusions because the risk exists that limitations of the model and imperfections of the sampling plan explain some of the perceived trends.

Furthermore the Scientific Committee has formulated some general and specific remarks regarding the sampling plan, the statistical analysis and the presentation of the results that can be taken into account for future studies.

It is strongly recommended to perform yearly such a study to monitor the impact of policy and the efforts of the different sectors regarding reduction of the use of antimicrobials in livestock production.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".