

# Project Summary

## Antimicrobial stewardship verification in the Australian chicken meat industry

Darren Trott  
University of Adelaide  
June 2018 – September 2019  
PRJ-011023

### Summary

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when organisms such as bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses develop the ability to stop treatments designed to remove them (such as antibiotics against bacteria) from being effective. The focus of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents by ensuring they are used appropriately. In 2017, the largest Australian chicken meat companies adopted an AMS framework based on the 5R's of good AMS (Responsibility, Reduction, Refinement, Replacement and Review), which are tailored to each company's operations. The framework aims to optimise antimicrobial use, choice, dosing, duration, and route of administration, while minimising the emergence of AMR and other adverse effects. This project will develop a verification program for AMS frameworks established within the Australian chicken meat industry through self-audits or audits by an independent third party. A pilot verification exercise will also be conducted to review the processes and identify any gaps in knowledge or support for effective AMS.

### Related research

This current research project is a continuation of the AgriFutures Australia (formerly, RIRDC) funded project PRJ-010520, developed an Antimicrobial Stewardship Framework within the Australia chicken meat industry. In 2015, the Australian Government developed Australia's First National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy and, in 2016, the chicken meat AMS framework was proactively implemented by individual companies.



### Contact

**Darren Trott**  
University of Adelaide  
darren.trott@adelaide.edu.au

**Georgie Townsend**  
Extension Officer  
Georgina.Townsend@agrifutures.com.au



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