USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Antibiotic Use and the VCPR on Goat Operations

NAHMS Goat Study 2019

March 2022

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF GOAT OPERATIONS USED ANTIBIOTICS IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Antibiotics are an important tool for protecting goat health and preventing, controlling, and treating disease on goat operations.

There were no substantial differences by primary production of operation[2] in the percentage of operations that used any antibiotics.

50.4% Small[1]

72.6% Medium

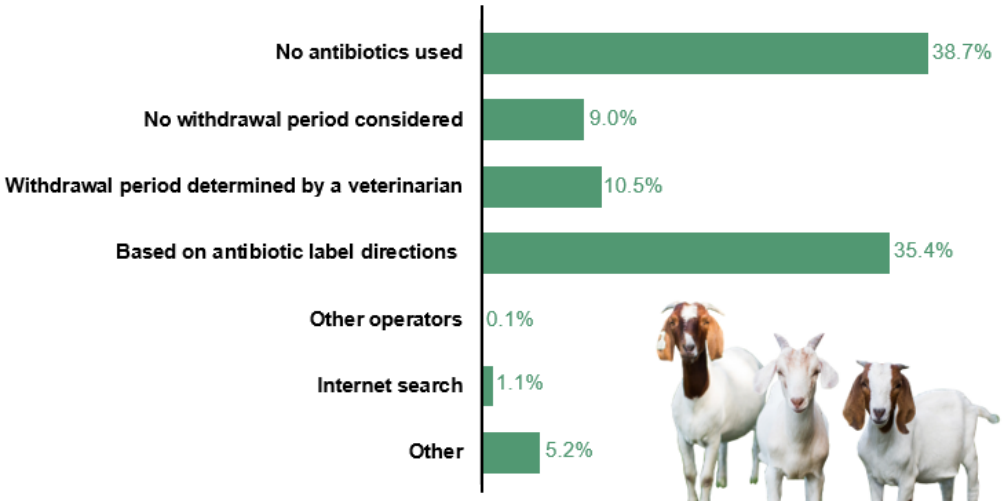
66.2% Large

Overall, 61.3% of all operations used any antibiotics in the previous 12 months.

PRODUCERS USED A VARIETY OF SOURCES TO DETERMINE ANTIBIOTIC WITHDRAWAL PERIODS

Drug withdrawal periods are established by the FDA to avoid violative drug residues at slaughter or in milk production. Many antibiotics are not labeled for use in goats and, therefore, do not have an established withdrawal period for goats. Some of these antibiotics are used off-label under the guidance of a veterinarian. Veterinarians that prescribe off-label antibiotics should consult the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) for appropriate withdrawal times for the prescribed antibiotics.

Percentage of operations by sources used to determine antibiotic withdrawal period

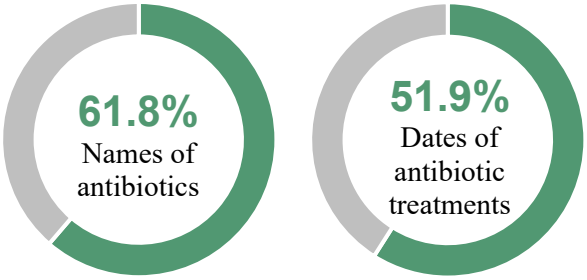


[1]Herd size (number of goats and kids): small (5-19 head), medium (20-99 head), large (100 or more head)

[2]Primary production of the operation: meat, dairy (farms primarily producing milk), and other

ABOUT ONE HALF OF ALL OPERATIONS THAT USED ANTIBIOTICS ALWAYS KEPT RECORDS

For operations that used antibiotics, percent of operations that always recorded the following information

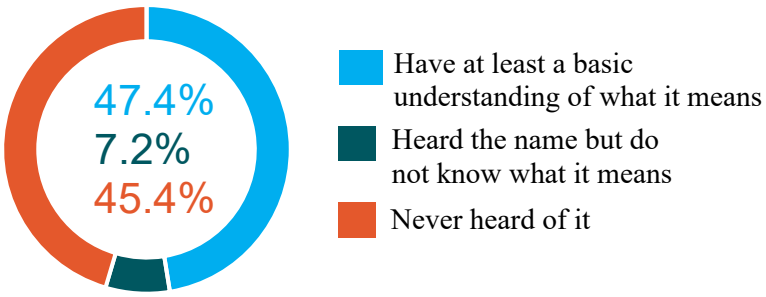


A higher percentage of medium operations always kept the names of antibiotics used (65.6 percent) and the dates of antibiotic treatments (63.6 percent) than large operations (46.2 percent and 42.0 percent, respectively).

Overall, 55.1% of operations recorded individual animal health information (e.g., vaccination, deworming practices).

THE VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) plays an important role in animal health in many states. It is required by law so that a veterinarian can diagnose, treat, and prescribe medication to animals. The definition of a VCPR varies by state. A VCPR has occurred when the client (owner or caretaker) of (an) animal(s) has agreed to have a veterinarian diagnose and possibly treat the animal(s). The veterinarian should be familiar with the animal(s) from recent examination, have knowledge of the keeping and care of the animal(s), or have recently visited the premises where the animal(s) are kept during a medically appropriate and timely visit.



Producer VCPR familiarity

Operators on a higher percentage of large operations (58.9%) had at least a basic understanding of the meaning of a VCPR than operators on small operations (43.2%).

Percentage of operations by operators' description of their VCPR

1.5%
A written document signed by a veterinarian and operator

20.7%
A verbal agreement between veterinarian and operator

32.6%
Veterinarian has not formally mentioned a VPCR, but operator considers having one based on the veterinarian's relationship with the operation

45.2%
No VCPR for goats or no veterinarian for goats

To see new and exciting publications regarding this study, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms or scan the QR code. Materials will be updated regularly as they become available.

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) conducted its second national study of the U.S. goat industry in 2019. This study took an in-depth look at the priority issues facing U.S. goat operations and aimed to provide new and valuable information regarding goat health and management practices.