



# Animal production & public health

GRASS 2022, 12 May 2022

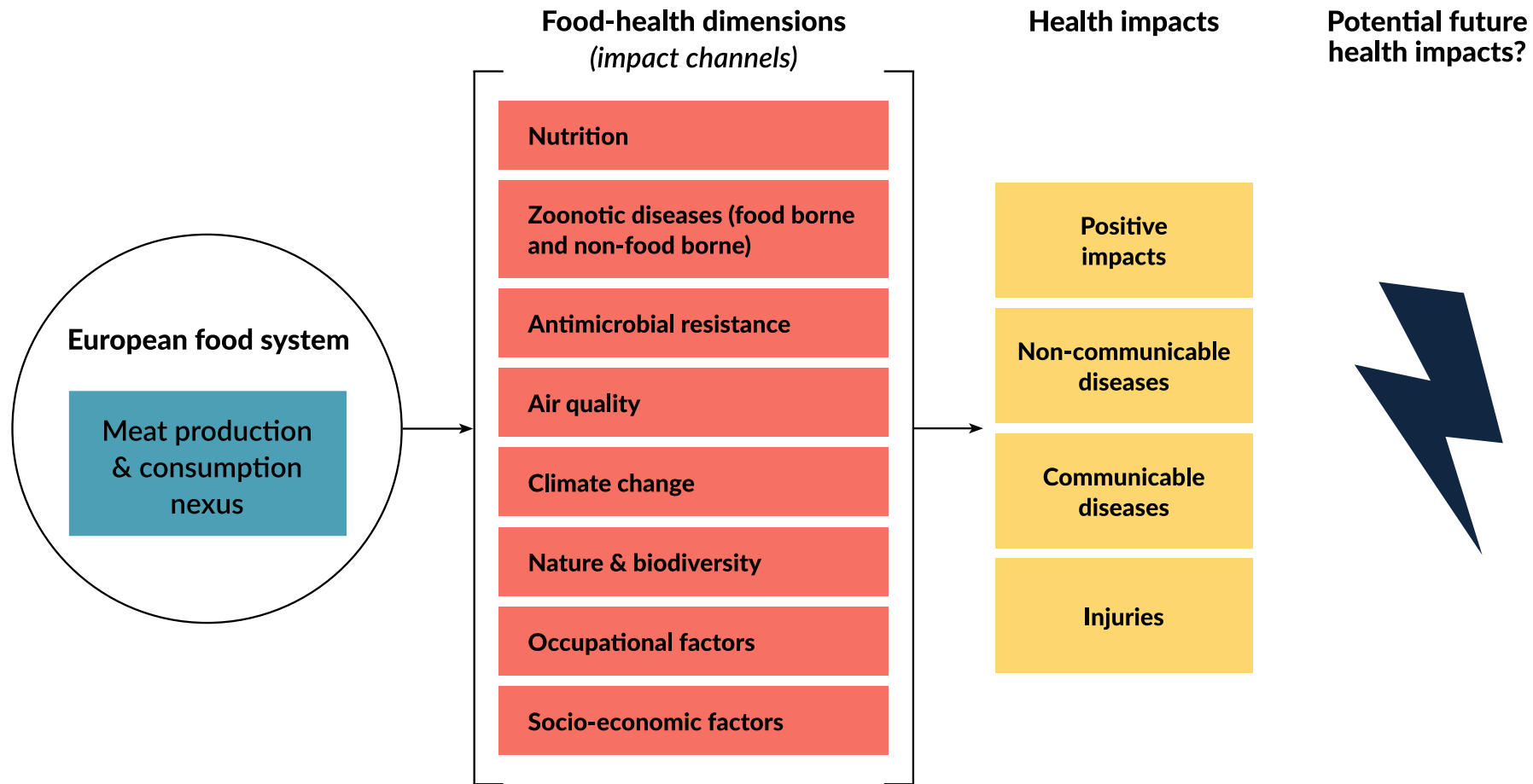
# European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

A leading European civil society alliance in Brussels, made up of 80 public health NGOs, patient groups, health professionals and disease groups, working to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe.

*EPHA is a change agent in the public interest,  
independent from commercial funding.*



# Animal production & public health



# Some highlights

Animal foods: at least **14.5%** of total anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission  
([FAO, 2013](#))

Can provide important contribution to **good nutrition**.  
Processed and red meat **overconsumption** in EU: 2.7% of burden of disease, 3.9% of premature mortality.  
([GBD, 2019](#))

Clear evidence linking antibiotics use in animal farming to **antibiotic resistant infections** in humans (incl. *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*)  
([AMR Review, 2015](#) | [JIACRA III, 2021](#))

Animal agriculture: major contributor to **PM2.5 formation** and air pollution associated health harms in Europe  
([Lelieveld et al., 2015](#))

Substantial part of farm economy with contribution to **incomes and livelihoods**. But - issues with fair prices and adequate working conditions?

Agricultural drivers associated with more than **50% of zoonotic infectious diseases** in humans since 1940  
([Rohr et al., 2019](#))

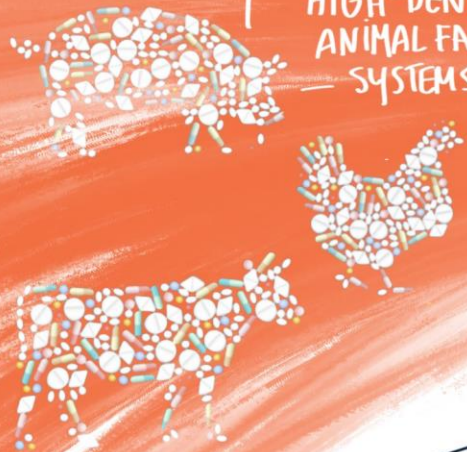




HUMAN  
MEDICINE  
→ LIKELY CAUSE #1

## CAUSES

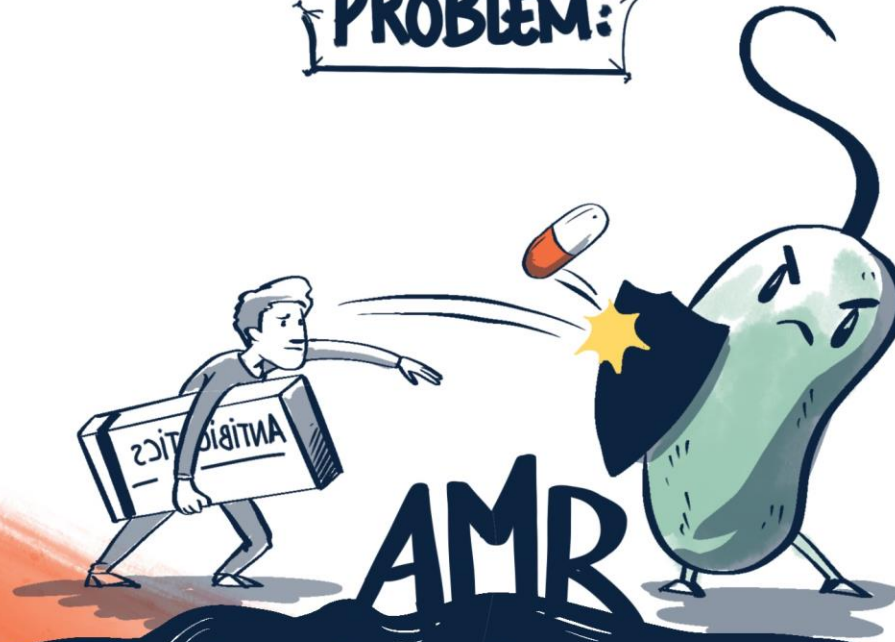
ANTIBIOTICS  
OVERUSE IN  
HIGH-DENSITY  
ANIMAL FARMING  
SYSTEMS



RESISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
ANIMALS &  
HUMANS  
TRANSMITTED BY

- ① DIRECT CONTACT
- ② FOOD CHAIN
- ③ ENVIRONMENT

## PROBLEM:



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE THREATENS THE EFFECTIVE  
TREATMENT OF INFECTIONS & ENDANGERS CRITICAL  
HEALTHCARE INTERVENTIONS – FROM SURGERIES TO  
CHEMOTHERAPY.

- ★ BACTERIA RESISTANT TO ANTIBIOTICS KILL  
AT LEAST 33,000 PEOPLE IN EUROPE EACH YEAR
- ★ LEFT UNADDRESSED, 10 MILLION PEOPLE MAY  
DIE OF AMR GLOBALLY BY 2050

## SOLUTIONS

LIMITING  
ANTIBIOTICS USE  
PROBABLY THE MOST  
LONG-TERM WAY TO  
REDUCE RESISTANCE

PRODUCTION  
SYSTEMS  
BASED ON ANIMAL  
WELFARE ARE  
PROMISING SOLUTIONS



# EU Veterinary Medicines Regulation

**Veterinary Medicines & Medicated Feed Regulations** applying from 28 January 2022.

- **Banning routine use** of antimicrobials in animal agriculture and to compensate for poor animal husbandry;
- **Preventative use** of antimicrobials restricted to exceptional cases;
- List of antimicrobials to be **prohibited or restricted** in animal agriculture;
- Roll-out of antimicrobials use **data collection**;
- **Import requirements** for animal products from outside EU.



ACHIEVING RESPONSIBLE FARM ANTIBIOTIC USE  
THROUGH IMPROVING ANIMAL HEALTH AND  
WELFARE IN PIG AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

## **ENDING ROUTINE FARM ANTIBIOTIC USE IN EUROPE**

By C  il  n Nunan

January 2022

*C  il  n Nunan (2022)*





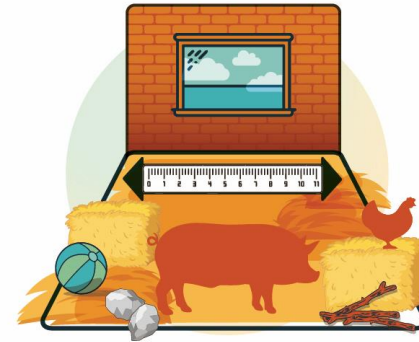
# Towards 'One Health' farming practices?



**Later weaning in piglets**



**Use appropriate breeds**



**Improve hygiene,  
reduce indoor stocking density  
and provide proper "enrichment"**



**Provide access to the outdoors**



**Include sufficient fibre in diets**



**Ban tail docking of piglets**



# Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

- New **specific objective on health**, incl. antibiotics use reduction and nutritious & sustainable food.
- Negotiations ongoing: national **CAP Strategic Plans**.
- Important opportunity to **support producers** in transitioning to **health-oriented agriculture** & food system.



(image: European Commission)





# Sustainable diets: good for people & planet



**Sustainable healthy diets:** “diets ... high in plant-sourced and low in animal-sourced and processed foods.”

“... consistent evidence of both positive health effects and reduced environmental footprints accruing from 'sustainable diets'.”

Jarmul et al. (2020) *"Climate change mitigation through dietary change: a systematic review of empirical and modelling studies on the environmental footprints and health effects of 'sustainable diets'."* Environmental Research Letters





# Thank you!

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