



Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians

Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Porcins

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CASV-ACVP

Position Statement on Raised Without Antibiotic (RWA) Production

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Approved by the CASV-ACVP Board of Directors on October 24, 2018.

- Raised Without Antibiotic (RWA) pig production should not have different standards of animal welfare, morbidity and mortality than conventionally raised pigs. It is our responsibility as swine veterinarians to prevent and treat illness and recommend antibiotic treatment when needed to maintain pig health and welfare. Veterinarians should work with producers on strategies to prevent diseases and best management practices that improve pigs' health and welfare, regardless of the type of production and market strategy.
 - Any responsible RWA program should recognize that some pigs will develop illness and require antibiotic treatment during their life. When RWA production is the primary market for a producer, an alternate market for the pigs that need antibiotic treatment⁽¹⁾ should be identified and available at all times.
 - The decision to treat pigs should be made when necessary and marketing programs such as RWA should not prevent producers from providing timely treatment.
 - Financial loss, loss of market, not having an alternate market and other factors should not overcome the decision to treat sick pigs or be detrimental to pig welfare.
 - The decision to treat or euthanize sick pigs should always be made in a timely manner, no matter what type of production pigs are raised under (RWA, conventional, etc.).
- ⁽¹⁾ Proper withdrawal time prior to market is always followed when an animal is treated with an antibiotic to ensure that meat is safe for consumption.