

Further fall in antibiotic resistance in cattle

In the past 10 years, gut bacteria in farm animals have become less resistant to antibiotics. That finding comes from the NethMap/MARAN report, which Wageningen was involved in.

In this annual monitor of antibiotic resistance, the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) takes random samples from broiler chickens, pigs and veal calves. The study focuses on *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* bacteria. Kees Veldman, head of the National Reference Laboratory for antibiotic resistance in animals, which is responsible for the monitor, says, 'A striking result is that antibiotic resistance in broiler chickens has fallen to its lowest level since

1998.' An important reason for this is the substantial decline in the use of antibiotics in poultry farming. That decline was over 30 per cent last year. Compared with 2009, sales of antibiotics for all farm animals have fallen by more than 70 per cent. The report also shows that the number of species of bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics has stayed the same the past two years.

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