



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SWINE VETERINARIANS

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MAY 8, 2015

Neena Anandaraman, DVM, MPH  
Senior Advisor for Animal Health, Production and Products  
USDA Office of the Chief Scientist  
1400 Independence Ave, SW - Mailstop 0110  
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Letter of commitment to Antibiotics Stewardship Meeting

Dear Dr. Anandaraman:

This letter is in response to your request regarding the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Antibiotic Stewardship Meeting. The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) welcomes the opportunity to participate in this summit and offers the expertise of swine veterinarians in the effort to understand and address the impact of antibiotic resistance in human and veterinary medicine.

The AASV, based in Perry, IA, has approximately 900 U.S. members involved in swine veterinary medicine. Our membership includes practitioners, researchers, academicians, and government and allied industry employees. In addition to identifying resources that increase the knowledge of veterinarians and promoting the health and well-being of the pigs we care for, we also advocate for science-based approaches to veterinary, industry, and public health issues. We work closely with swine producer organizations including the National Pork Board and the National Pork Producers Council to address issues critical to the swine industry through educational outreach targeting farmers, veterinarians, public health officials, regulators and legislators.

Veterinarians work everyday at the interface between animal health and human health. We recognize the significance of the one health concept and the importance of maintaining antimicrobial effectiveness. The AASV was a leader in developing and promoting guidelines for the judicious use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine through the publication of a document entitled *Basic Guidelines of Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials in Pork Production* in 1999. This document was revised in 2004 and again in 2014.

The AASV utilizes multiple outreach formats to educate our membership including the:

- AASV Annual Meeting – attended by over 1,000 participants each year
- Journal of Swine Health and Production – a peer-reviewed scientific journal distributed to more than 1650 recipients worldwide
- AASV e-Letter – a weekly electronic newsletter circulated to approximately 1450 AASV members
- AASV web site – provides a wealth of information of importance to swine veterinarians including proceedings from the major annual swine conferences, numerous online publications, image and video libraries, etc.
- Numerous issue-based committees focusing on topics of significance to swine veterinary medicine including pharmaceutical issues

- Development and distribution of educational brochures and fact sheets

The principle mission of the AASV is increasing the knowledge of swine veterinarians so that they can better protect the animals we care for and educate the producers we work with. It is our commitment to:

- Continue to participate in the development and distribution of educational materials focusing on the judicious use of antimicrobials.
- Minimize antimicrobial resistance to promote animal and public health.
- Dedicate resources to furthering the understanding of antimicrobial use in swine medicine and its impact on antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals.
- Collaborate with producers, veterinarians, researchers and human and animal health officials to curb antimicrobial resistance.
- Promote antimicrobial stewardship among our members and the producers we work with.
- Support research efforts to assess the impact of antimicrobial use in pork production and develop effective alternative strategies and tools.
- Encourage the judicious use of antimicrobials to promote and protect the health and well-being of swine while also protecting public health.

I would welcome the opportunity to represent the American Association of Swine Veterinarians at this meeting and offer the input of our membership as a resource to the US Department of Agriculture in the agency's effort to curb the impact of antimicrobial resistant bacteria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Burkgren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Burkgren, DVM  
Executive Director