America’s pig farmers work closely with veterinarians to ensure that their pigs stay healthy. However, at times pigs need medical attention, which may require the use of antibiotics to treat illness. Responsible antibiotic use means using only what’s necessary for pig health. This sensible approach means doing what’s best for food safety, animal well being and the environment, or in other words... People, Pigs and Planet.

In 1989, U.S. pig farmers began what’s known today as the Pork Quality Assurance® Plus program to foster food safety and animal welfare. This certification program educates pig farmers on good record keeping and on using antibiotics responsibly on their farms.

While raising healthy pigs is a top goal of pig farmers, their overall objective is to produce safe, wholesome food that’s consistent with the ideals of today’s consumers. Fortunately, U.S. pig farmers lead the way in animal care and doing what’s right on the farm.

America’s pig farmers share the same values as today’s consumers. Keeping pigs healthy and producing safe food are the top priority of pig farmers and their veterinarians. Together, they will continue to do what’s right for the animals, which may include using antibiotics when necessary to keep pigs healthy.

For more information, visit www.porkcares.org

U.S. Pork’s Sustainability Keeps Improving

Improvements Per Pound of Pork Produced
(from 1960 to 2015)

- LAND USE REDUCED BY 76%
- WATER USE DECREASED BY 25%
- ENERGY USE REDUCED BY 7%
- CARBON Footprint REDUCED By 7.7%

These improvements reflect the collaboration of farmers and veterinarians who use the best management and tools available to keep pigs healthy every day, year after year.

Pigs Get a Better Quality of Life

When farmers use antibiotics as prescribed by a veterinarian, pigs tend to:

- Give birth to larger, healthier litters
- Get sick less often and recover faster
- Suffer premature death less often due to illness
- Stay healthier and grow stronger

Responsible Antibiotic Use Benefits Everyone

For pigs, just like people, antibiotics can be important for staying healthy and fighting disease. When pigs stay healthy, safe pork is the result. Here are some examples of when farmers, with veterinary oversight, choose to use FDA-approved antibiotics to care for their pigs as part of an overall care plan.

To prevent illness at specific times of vulnerability