



389 Research paper

### **Alternatives to antibiotics for farm animals**

by Papatsiros, V.G., Katsoulos, P.D., Koutoulis, K.C., Karatzia, M.,  
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#### **In Significant Impact Groups:**

Specific alternatives \ Immunomodulators

Species targeted: Sheep; Dairy; Poultry; Pigs;

Age: Not stated;

#### **Summary:**

Nowadays, there is an increasing concern for the public health about the consequences from the long and increased use of antibiotics in livestock production. The use of antibiotics in animal feed as growth promoters has been completely banned by the European Union since 2006, based on their possible negative effects on human and animal health. The removal of growth promoters has led to animal performance problems and a rise in the incidence of certain animal diseases. Thus, there is an urgent need to find alternatives to antibiotics, especially in EU. Due to the modern consumers' concern about the potential development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria as well as at the same time the need to prevent economic losses of the farmers, alternatives to antibiotics has been developed to prevent the health problems and to improve the growth performance in farm animals. Owing to the full ban of antibiotic use in EU there is an urgent need to find alternatives to in-feed antibiotics. New strategies and commercial products must be developed to improve animal health and performance, based on their safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness. The aim of this study is to summarize the beneficial effects of currently used alternatives to in-feed antibiotics, i.e. probiotics, prebiotics, organic acids, phytogenic compounds and zeolites on health and growth performance in farm animals (swine, poultry and ruminants).

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#### **Where to find the original material:**

<https://www.cabi.org/cabreviews/review/20133390413>; 10.1079/PAVSNNR20138032

Country: Europe