

What is AUS Surveys & Studies?

Surveys & Studies is the subsection of AUS that aims to better understand trends in antimicrobial usage and resistance as they actually occur in California's livestock.

Surveys & Studies accomplishes this by:

- Using **voluntary** surveys to collect representative information from CA producers and veterinarians;
- Asking about animal health and livestock management practices, such as vaccination, in addition to antibiotic use;
- Collecting **voluntary** samples from animals and their surroundings for resistance testing; and
- Contracting additional studies from universities and experts in the field.



How will my information be used?

Many national and international reports attempt to link antibiotic sales data to trends in resistance, missing essential information regarding animal health and how antibiotics are actually administered on farm. These methods for reporting require improvement and AUS strives to more accurately represent antibiotic use in CA livestock. **Your responses will directly shape the resources and materials developed by AUS for producers, veterinarians, and the public.**

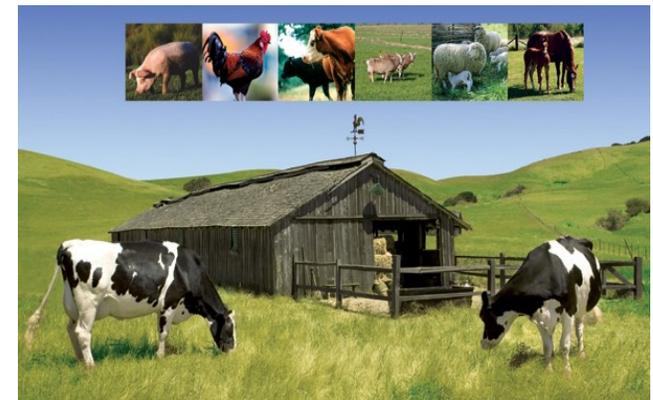
How do I know information I provide is protected?

All individual data received by AUS is kept strictly confidential, including being exempt from Public Records Act (PRA) or Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, as mandated by state law (Food and Agricultural Code, Chapter 4.5, Section 14407).

- Many of AUS's surveys are **anonymous** and do not request or require personally identifying information.
- AUS reports only summarized information so that **no individual survey participant can be identified.**

Why is it important to complete AUS surveys?

- Participation ensures that what AUS does is reflective of what is actually happening with California livestock.
- This is a chance for livestock owners, veterinarians, and AUS to collaborate on the promotion of animal health and to showcase the efforts taking place across the state to produce safe food.
- Your participation is essential in demonstrating that a **voluntary reporting** model provides statistically relevant data for California, is an effective means to assess trends, and leads to positive outcomes for California livestock.



California Law

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)'s Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) program was created to fulfill the mandates set forth by California Senate Bill 27 (SB 27, Hill, 2015).

Section 14405 of SB 27 mandates that CDFA gather representative data on antibiotic sales and usage, antimicrobial resistant bacteria, and livestock management practices in coordination with other entities and from willing participants who volunteer their information. This data will be used to better understand California's antimicrobial use and resistance and to inform the development of outreach materials.



About Us

The California Department of Food & Agriculture will collect voluntary data on antibiotic use and animal health practices to inform the development of voluntary antibiotic stewardship guidelines and resources on best management practices. This guidance will be aimed to assist producers and veterinarians in reducing the use of medically important antibiotics, while optimizing animal health, for the more than 60 livestock species and production types important to California.



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<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AUS/>



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Surveys & Studies

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