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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## Agcarm supports World Antibiotic Awareness Week

Agcarm supports the responsible use of antibiotics to protect the health and wellbeing of animals and people.

Agcarm members are working alongside veterinarians, government and other stakeholders to manage antibiotic resistance issues that may occur in New Zealand. This includes co-ordinating surveillance to detect resistance, along with research to identify where and when it is most likely to occur.

Agcarm chief executive, Mark Ross says, “Progress on responsible use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine requires a combined effort among veterinarians, animal owners and government as well as investments in research and monitoring.”

To reduce reliance on antibiotics, animal health manufacturers are committed to researching and developing new medicines, vaccines and new strategies to help veterinary professionals identify and treat illness in animals. They also help veterinarians and farmers protect the health and wellness of livestock animals, resulting in safe food.

“We are fortunate that our animal health manufacturers are committed to supporting our vets and farmers to use antibiotic medicines responsibly and properly.

“Antibiotics should be part of a broader approach to disease management. This includes good animal husbandry, biosecurity and taking preventative measures, such as using vaccinations,” adds Ross.

Agcarm supports the World Health Organization’s first World Antibiotic Awareness Week, held from 16 to 22 November 2015. The campaign aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance by encouraging best practices among the general public, health workers, policy makers and the agricultural sector to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

### **About Agcarm**

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably.

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