



United States Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Audiocast participation offered for March workshop on developing new antimicrobial drugs and alternatives to antibiotics for food animals

Feb. 25, 2016: Free audiocasting services will be available for the March 17-18, 2016, workshop exploring incentives and disincentives for development of new antimicrobial drugs and alternatives to antibiotics for use in food animals.

“We are pleased to offer this free service for those individuals who are unable to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the workshop in person,” says conference organizer Stacy Sneeringer, a research economist at USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS). “The audiocast services allow us to bring into the workshop discussions more of the diverse disciplines involved in development of new therapeutic tools.”

Audiocast participants will be able to hear the workshop presenters and see their PowerPoint presentations. Details on how to access LiveMeeting for each session of the workshop are available on the [Farm Foundation website](#).

The workshop, a collaboration of Farm Foundation, NFP, and ERS, will take place at the ERS offices at Patriots Plaza III, 355 E Street SW, Washington, D.C.

The rise of antibiotic resistance and the decline in the number of new antibiotics being developed has generated concern for the future of human medicine. Much less attention is being focused on similar concerns for food animal antibiotics. To understand how to incentivize research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and novel products requires consideration of several factors, including: the market for animal pharmaceuticals, how to bring a product to market, the regulatory protocols required to bring products to market, the regulations on use of antibiotics in food production, and the overlap between human and animal antibiotic use and development.

In addition to these factors, the March 17-18 workshop will also explore what types of interventions might be used to incentivize research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and novel products for use in food animals. This workshop is not intended to explore the chain of antimicrobial resistance from farm to fork, or antibiotic stewardship practices in livestock production.

Keynoting the workshop will be Catherine Woteki, USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics. Other speakers will include representatives from FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, academic researchers, and representatives of animal health pharmaceutical companies, global animal health associations and biotech development companies. The workshop agenda is available on the [Farm Foundation website](#).

The workshop is targeted to policy makers, researchers and government agency staff, as well as representatives of the human health, livestock production, veterinary medicine and animal health industries.

There is no charge to participate in the workshop in person, but registration is requested and can be [completed online](#).

For more information contact:

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[USDA's Economic Research Service](#) has a mission to inform and enhance public and private decision making on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment and rural development. With more than 300 employees, the Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[Farm Foundation, NFP](#) serves as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. The Foundation does not lobby or advocate. The Foundation's 83-year reputation for objectivity allows it to bring together diverse stakeholders for discussions on economic and public policy issues.

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