

AHW(11)6741



Antimicrobial resistance – the role of European farmers and European Agricooperatives

- Klaas Johan OSINGA -
Vice-chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Working Party of Copa-Cogeca

London, 16th September 2011

Outline

- 1. Who are Copa and Cogeca ?**
- 2. Farming in Europe**
- 3. Copa-Cogeca: key points**
- 4. What has been achieved so far?**
- 5. What is needed now?**
- 6. What is on the agenda?**
- 7. Summary**

1. Who are Copa and Cogeca?



Copa – European farmers

Bringing together 60 EU farmers' organisations

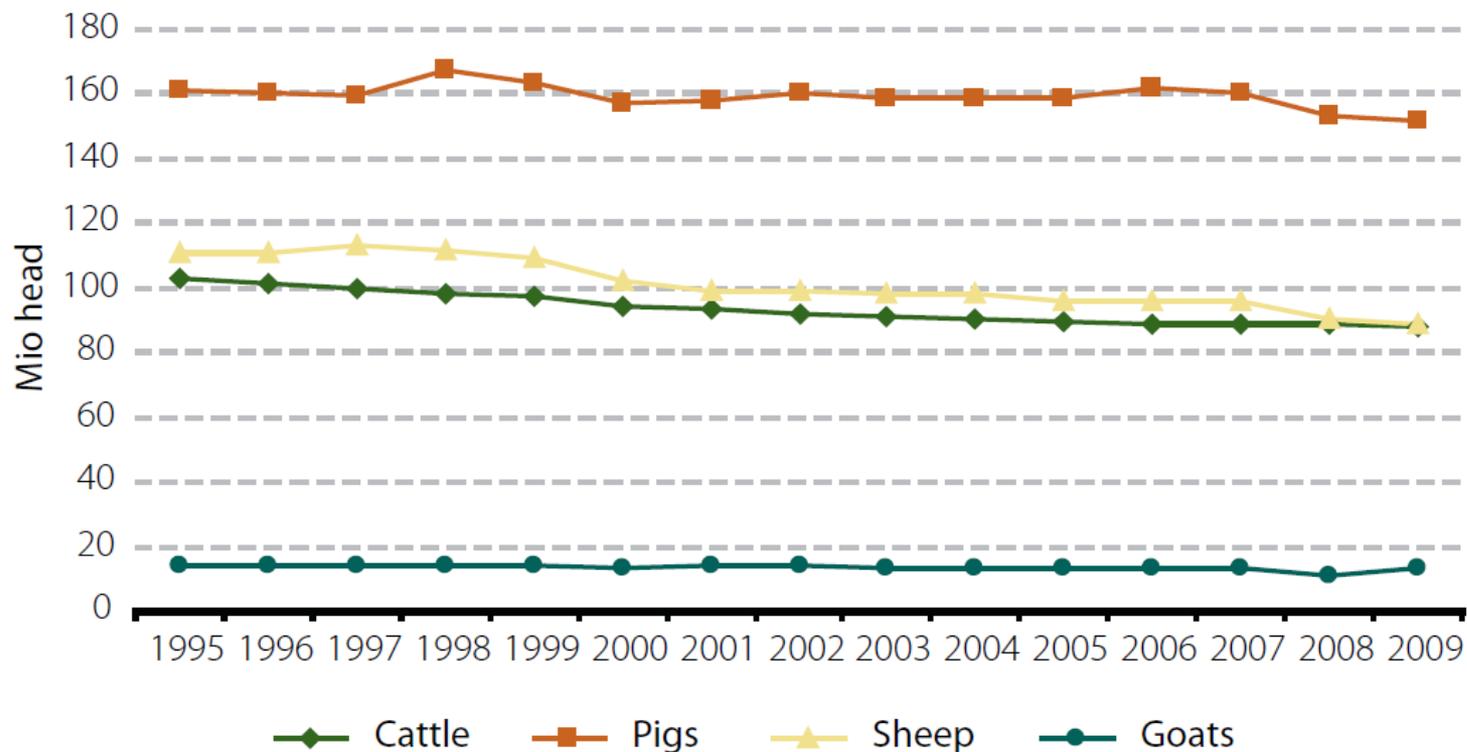
Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

Bringing together 35 EU agri-coops organisations

Two organisations...

- representing 30 million farmers and their families
- as well as around 40,000 cooperatives

2. EU Livestock numbers, million heads, 1995–2009



Source: EUROSTAT - Agricultural statistics Main results 2008–09

Animal slaughtering by species in 2009 *in 1 000 tonnes*

Animal	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Poultry
EU27	7 715.3	21 276.1	748.1	59.3	:
BE	255.0	1 082.0	0.7	0.0	:
BG	4.7	38.3	5.9	0.1	98.6
CZ	77.0	284.6	0.1	-	194.3
DK	126.4	1 583.2	1.8	-	167.4
DE	1 177.7	5 253.8	20.1	0.4	1 276.4
EE	9.6	30.8	0.1	-	14.8
IE	514.2	195.9	55.0	-	:
GR	57.2	117.6	71.9	36.7	174.1
ES	575.1	3 236.6	121.3	8.6	1 305.1
FR	1 466.7	2 004.2	83.3	6.5	1 670.0
IT	1 055.0	1 588.4	39.6	1.5	1 143.1
CY	4.3	58.1	2.7	2.7	27.1
LV	19.0	24.8	0.2	-	22.7
LT	43.9	41.4	0.1	-	65.4

Animal	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Poultry
EU27	7 715.3	21 276.1	748.1	59.3	:
LU	9.0	9.4	0.0	0.0	-
HU	29.7	388.7	0.2	-	360.0
MT	1.5	7.4	0.0	0.0	4.7
NL	400.2	1 275.0	14.2	1.1	782.0
AT	223.7	533.4	7.1	0.7	109.2
PL	385.1	1 608.2	0.8	0.1	1 266.5
PT	102.7	373.4	9.5	0.9	291.6
RO	25.0	222.1	1.3	-	289.9
SI	35.3	24.1	0.1	-	59.5
SK	15.8	70.1	0.6	-	68.1
FI	81.1	205.7	0.7	0.0	94.9
SE	150.8	261.7	5.1	0.0	:
UK	869.6	757.2	305.6	0.1	1 459.1

Source: EUROSTAT - Agricultural statistics Main results 2008–09

3. Copa-Cogeca: key points (“a prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animal production”, 2005)

1. Ensure a **sustainable and profitable animal production** with healthy and productive animals
2. Antimicrobial resistance is a real concern - **transparency and responsibility of all key actors is needed:** farmers, veterinarians, veterinary pharmaceutical industry, distributors of veterinary medicines, feed manufacturing industry, competent authorities and all the other food chain partners.
3. **Prevention is better than cure** (e.g. good hygiene, proper feed, appropriate husbandry and good management practices), but if **animals get sick they need to be treated.**

3. Copa-Cogeca: key points

- 4. Ensuring a responsible and effective use of antimicrobial agents at farm level in order to :**
 - Guarantee that bacterial infections in animals and humans can continue to be treated in future;
 - Prevent the transmission of resistant bacteria from animals to humans through the food production chain or from animals to humans directly. And avoid the spread of resistant genes in the environment;
- 5. Reduce risks without reducing the availability of necessary antimicrobial agents**

4. What has been achieved so far ?

Many farmers' organisations and co-operatives are actively involved in projects with scientists, food chain partners and authorities (**Training courses, advisory services, certificate schemes**)

Guidelines have been developed (RUMA, EPRUMA)

Information campaigns at MS level

(e.g. France "*Les antibiotiques c'est pas automatique*", Netherlands "*Zicht op gezonde dieren*")

Farmers in many EU Member States have become more aware (e.g. disease prevention, good husbandry practices)

5. How can we work towards a responsible use of antimicrobials at farm level ?

- Promote good husbandry system (housing, hygiene, nutrition, management in general)
- Ensure availability of specialised vets able to provide a prompt and appropriate prescription
- Appropriate and effective diagnosis before treatments
- Follow strictly the veterinary prescription / labelling instructions
- Record treatments for farm comparison and management, and Food Chain information

And.. by improving the economic situation of farmers...

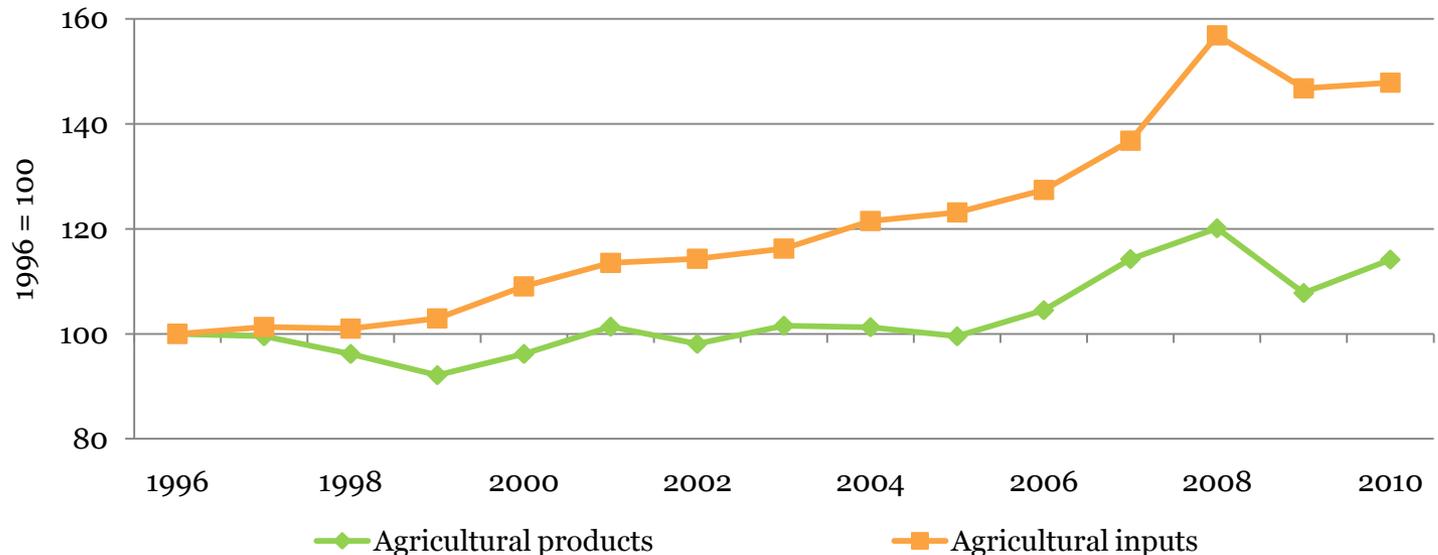
EU Commission's Communication (2009) on "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe": *an unequal bargaining power has a negative impact on the competitiveness of the food supply chain as smaller but efficient actors may be obliged to operate under reduced profitability, limiting their ability and incentives to invest in improved product quality and innovation of production processes*"

Farmers' income is less than half an average salary in the EU (land prices are rising, but this is being capitalised in take over values of farms and land rental, making life more difficult for young farmers)

Why is farm income generally low ?

The “cost-price squeeze”: since 1996, agricultural output prices have increased on average by 1.1% each year while input prices have increased by 2.9% in nominal terms

Agricultural price indices development in the EU-25
nominal terms



Farmers' position in the food chain is generally weak....



5. What is needed?

1. Further promotion of **practical disease prevention measures** (e.g. better housing, animal health plans, biosecurity, good husbandry)
2. **Eradication programmes, where possible and cost effective** – e.g. *BVD*
3. Continue to build up on **voluntary quality schemes; a food chain approach is needed**
4. For authorities: continue **responsible, evidence-based and pragmatic policy on antimicrobial use**; while avoiding further administrative and financial burdens on farmers....
5. **Communication strategy** – co-ordinated (18 Nov)

What is on the agenda which we need to include in our plans...?

1. EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2011-2015
2. EU Animal Health Law (proposal mid 2012)
3. New Common Agricultural Policy (2014)
4. EU2020 (applied research for green, inclusive, smart growth)
5. High Level Forum for a better functioning food chain
6. More international trade agreements...

7. Summary

- 1. A food chain approach is needed, including consumers**
- 2. We need to close the gaps between farmers, science and policy. We need applied research projects**
- 3. We need one message for both farmers and the general public, which means a co-ordinated communication strategy**

Copa-Cogeca - defending and developing the European Model of Agriculture



Thank you!

www.copa-cogeca.eu

kjosinga@ltonoord.nl

