

## Research program IZS VE 16/15

**Assessment of antimicrobial drug usage and health management practices in dairy and beef cattle herds in the Veneto Region**

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The reduction of antimicrobial drug usage in food animals has emerged as a major task in several countries, and is especially important in Italy, that in European Union have the highest consumption of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. For these reasons we propose a study on antimicrobial drug usage in cattle with the following objectives:

- to quantify the antimicrobial drug usage in dairy cows and beef cattle for the different classes of antimicrobials;
- to assess different systems used to quantify antimicrobial drug usage in food-producing animals;
- to assess the association between the health management practices in the herds and the reduction of antimicrobial usage.

Cumulatively the outcome of these objectives will indicate which are the most effective health management practices to reduce antimicrobial usage in cattle herds. Data will support the development of practical guidelines for farmers and veterinarians with the aim of reducing antimicrobial usage in dairy and beef cattle.