# EU livestock strategy

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Communication from the Commission – EU strategy on livestock

## What is changing and why?

The European Commission has published its European Union (EU) livestock strategy. The strategy reaffirms the EU's "One Health" approach, which recognises that humans, animals, plants, and the wider environment are interdependent). It reinforces strict requirements on food safety, animal welfare, and prevention of animal diseases, and encourages environmentally friendly production.

The following initiatives included in the strategy are expected to be most significant for products imported from non-EU countries:

- reinforce official controls on imports, in particular for antimicrobials and hormones
- strengthen disease prevention and response, including robust disease monitoring systems, biosecurity measures, disease management, preventive vaccination, and a review of current disease categorisation
- reinforce animal welfare requirements, including in relation to imported products
- review labelling rules to improve communication on environmentally friendly, locally sourced, and high-welfare livestock production systems
- reduce EU dependency on imported feed.

The strategy also seeks to:

- promote the EU's approach to regionalisation (identifying specific disease risk zones within countries), including vaccination
- support innovations that reduce emissions, enhance nutrient management, and strengthen the contribution of livestock systems to a circular economy, including improved use of biomass and animal by-products (integrated in the work of the EU agri-food chain Observatory)
- harmonise methodologies for assessing livestock greenhouse gas emissions at farm level.


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## Actions

Exporting countries should monitor the new initiatives as they are announced, and take part in public consultations which will contribute to the development of new measures. All these initiatives will be tracked by AGRINFO.

## Timeline

The strategy sets out the long-term direction for the EU livestock sector. The specific initiatives included will be implemented over time.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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