The growing role of animal hygiene for producing food of animal origin

Thomas Blaha

University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany
Population and Food Production

![Graph showing the relationship between population and food production over time. The graph illustrates an exponential increase in both population and food production, with a point of intersection indicating a potential point of crisis or scarcity.]
The Implications are...

- Consumers
  - ask except of low prices for high quality, healthy and „happy“ animals, and want to know about husbandry systems

- Society
  - demands compliance with welfare, environmental protection and sustainable production („domestic products“ not enough)

- Legislative
  - concentrates on food safety, transparency and tracing back (but also increasingly on animal welfare)
The societal expectations

The consumer, the society and, thus, the market ask for:

High quality and safe food from healthy animals that are kept in animal friendly husbandry systems that do not pose any risk to the environment and to human health and do not need routinely antibiotics

I.e.: Animal Health is a major expectation
The legal demands

The EU legislature, and national governments demand:

The production of food from animals under controlled conditions (control of the control, tracing back) that comply with the basic mandatory standards for animal health, welfare (e.g. short transports) and environmental protection

I.e.: „Animal Health“ is a major demand
In Summary

- Reaching the **highest possible animal health status** has become a core element for the production of food from animal origin.

- However, the expectation is not *effective treatment of disease*, but *animals that have lived a „disease-free“ life and produce pathogen and residue-free food* (no antibiotics as production tool!!)
Animal Health is...

...not a simple "No" or "Yes", but a complex "Low" or "High"

**The tools**
- Animal health management
- Drugs (antimicrobials)
- Vaccination
- Biosecurity, Trade restr., eradication

Worms and Epidemics
- Pneumonia and Diarrhoea
- Little disease with lots of drugs
- No disease with no drugs
- No animal and no human pathogens

Low Animal Health High
The Changing Role of Animal Health Care

- **Focus on Single Animals**: Treating Diseases
- **Focus on Herd or Flock**: Increasing Herd Health for Productivity
- **Focus on Food Production Chain**: Standardization and Certification of Herd Health for Food Safety & Food Quality

**High**
- Consumer Concerns with Food Safety & Food Quality

**Low**

Time Periods:
- 1900
- 1950
- 1990
- 2000
- ....
The growing role in providing animal health care

Curing disease

Animal hygiene
The outlook

- „Animal hygiene becomes key element of economically successful and socially accepted production systems for food of animal origin“, which means:

- ISAH has the potential to be a global „think tank“ and facilitator for promoting animal hygiene by bringing together the major stakeholders of producing food of animal origin (producers, veterinarians, FAO, O.I.E., WHO...)
What ISAH stands for...