



## UNILEVER'S POSITION ON GROWTH PROMOTING SUBSTANCES

Growth promoting substances are used to increase or speed up growth or milk production in animals farmed for food. The use of growth promoting substances can negatively impact animal welfare, as they may enable animals to grow or produce milk in a way that puts excessive strain on their physiological capabilities<sup>1</sup>.

Unilever recognises this impact and is working to limit the use of these substances in the production of the raw materials it buys.

Our first action has been to limit the use of the hormone rBST (also known as rBGH). rBST is still legal to use in some countries to increase milk production<sup>2</sup>.

We have banned the use of rBST in the United States in all our ice cream products – this accounts for 96% of our US dairy volume.

We are now working towards our ambition of eliminating rBST from our supply chains in the rest of the world. The first step is to get visibility of its use by our suppliers, so we can start working with them to remove it.

Antibiotics are sometimes used to enable animals to grow faster using less food. In our [Position on the Use of Antibiotics in Farm Animals](#) we address this point and encourage all our suppliers of livestock products to phase out the use of antibiotics as growth promoters<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare. 1999. Report on animal welfare aspects of the use of bovine somatotrophin. [ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scah/out21\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scah/out21_en.pdf). Accessed September 28, 2020

<sup>2</sup> It is not legal to use rBST in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Argentina, or in the EU

<sup>3</sup> This was banned in the EU in 2006 and in the US in 2017 (under a voluntary agreement), but may still be taking place in other regions