

# The measures of the industry to promote responsible use of antibiotics in Finland

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## Animal Health ETT<sup>1</sup>

- Association established and financed by dairies, slaughterhouses and egg packaging companies
- Coordinating national animal health management for cattle, pigs and poultry
  - Naseva: Centralized health care register for Finnish cattle herds<sup>2</sup>
  - Sikava: Stakeholder's health and welfare register for swine herds<sup>5</sup>
- Giving instructions for biosecurity
  - Introduced Biocheck.UGent® method<sup>4</sup> in Finland
- Giving additional instructions for import and trade of animals
  - E.g. testing of all imported poultry flocks for ESBL, AmpC and carbapenemase producers
- Advising responsible use of antibiotics and collecting medication data

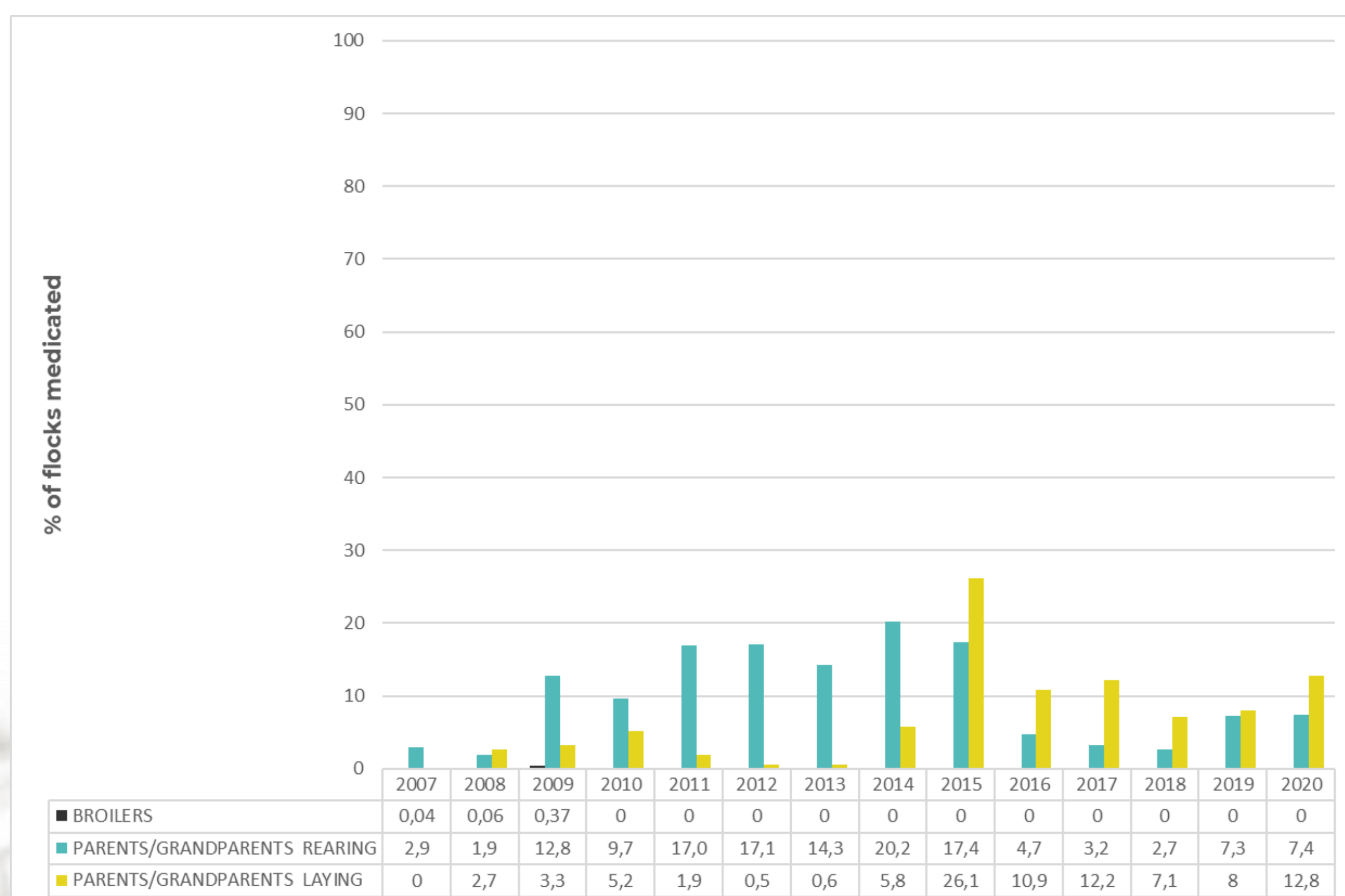


Fig. 1: Need for antibiotic medication in broiler production chain in Finland 2007-2020  
No commercial broiler flocks medicated since 2009 (3000-4000 flocks slaughtered/year).  
Broiler breeder flocks medicated mainly due to tenosynovitis.

## Industry is promoting responsible use of antibiotics

- Commitment to comply with veterinary authorities' guidelines for responsible use of antibiotics
- Establishment and maintenance of medication records in Naseva and Sikava databases
- Collection and statistics of national antibiotic use data in pig, cattle and poultry production
- Control program for *Mycoplasma bovis* to ensure safe trade of cattle
- Guide to prudent use of medicines (pigs and poultry)
- Guide to weaning piglets
- Voluntary prohibition of use of critically important antibiotics for human medicine in pig and poultry production since 2019
  - Fluoroquinolones
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-generation cephalosporins
  - Colistin and new broad-spectrum and slowly eliminated macrolides (poultry)

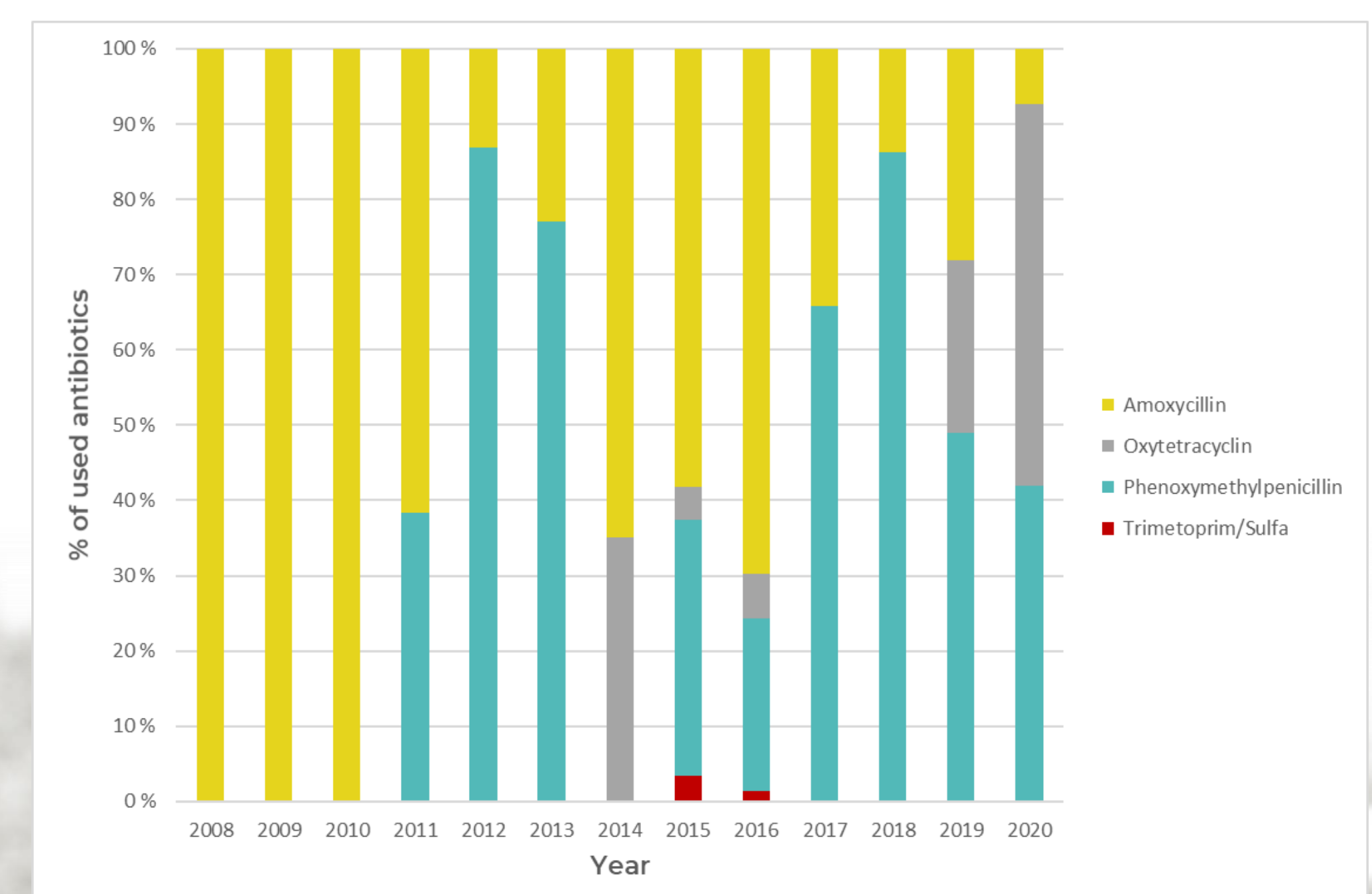


Fig. 2: Different antibiotics used for medication in broiler production chain (since 2010 only broiler breeders medicated)

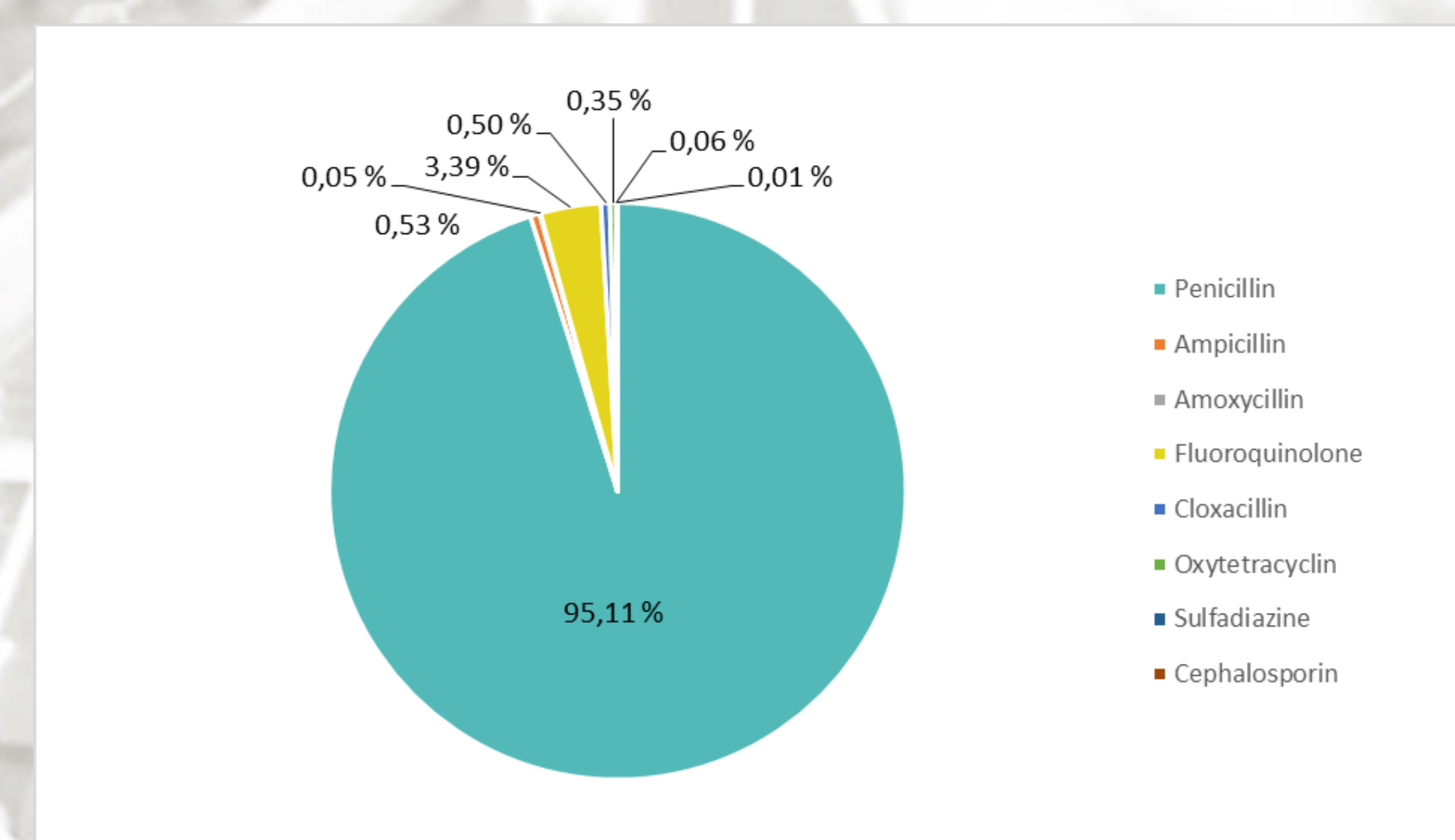


Fig. 3: Different antibiotics used for medication of bovine mastitis in 2021

## Principles of responsible medication in Finland

- Veterinary visit and clinical inspection
- Bacteriological diagnosis and antimicrobial susceptibility testing
  - E.g. routine testing of quarter milk samples for mastitis with PCR
  - Selective dry cow therapy
- Choice of antibiotic based on *the Recommendations for the use of antimicrobials in the treatment of the most significant infectious and contagious diseases in animals*<sup>3</sup>
  - Preferring individual treatment (cattle and swine) and narrow spectrum antibiotics
  - Right dosage and sufficient treatment time
  - No mass medication as preventive treatment or growth promoter
- Withdrawal period must be followed
  - Routine testing of milk for antibiotics after treatment
  - Chain information of every batch to the slaughterhouse
- Medicine recording obligatory for farmers and veterinarians

## Goal of the industry



## References

<sup>1</sup>Animal Health ETT, [www.ett.fi](http://www.ett.fi)

<sup>2</sup>Centralized health care register for Finnish cattle herds (Naseva), [www.naseva.fi](http://www.naseva.fi)

<sup>3</sup>Finnish Food Authority 2018: Recommendations for the use of antimicrobials in the treatment of the most significant infectious and contagious diseases in animals

<sup>4</sup>Ghent University: Biocheck.UGent®, <https://biocheck.ugent.be>

<sup>5</sup>Stakeholder's health and welfare register for swineherds in Finland (Sikava) [www.sikava.fi](http://www.sikava.fi)