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Coordinating surveillance policies in animal health and food safety ‘from farm to fork’

This Review addresses the recognised need for better coordination of surveillance policies for animal health, food pathogens and foodborne diseases. It examines the role of Veterinary Services and highlights the need to work closely with the other services involved. The mechanisms for promoting such coordination are discussed, together with the implications for international organisations, including the OIE and the WHO. Included are examples of the integration of animal health, food pathogen and foodborne disease surveillance programmes for different pathogens and in different regions of the world. The scientific and technical tools for promoting the coordination of surveillance policies, which protects the safety of the entire food chain, are also discussed. These tools include improved analytical methods and traceability mechanisms that link live animals to foods derived from them.

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