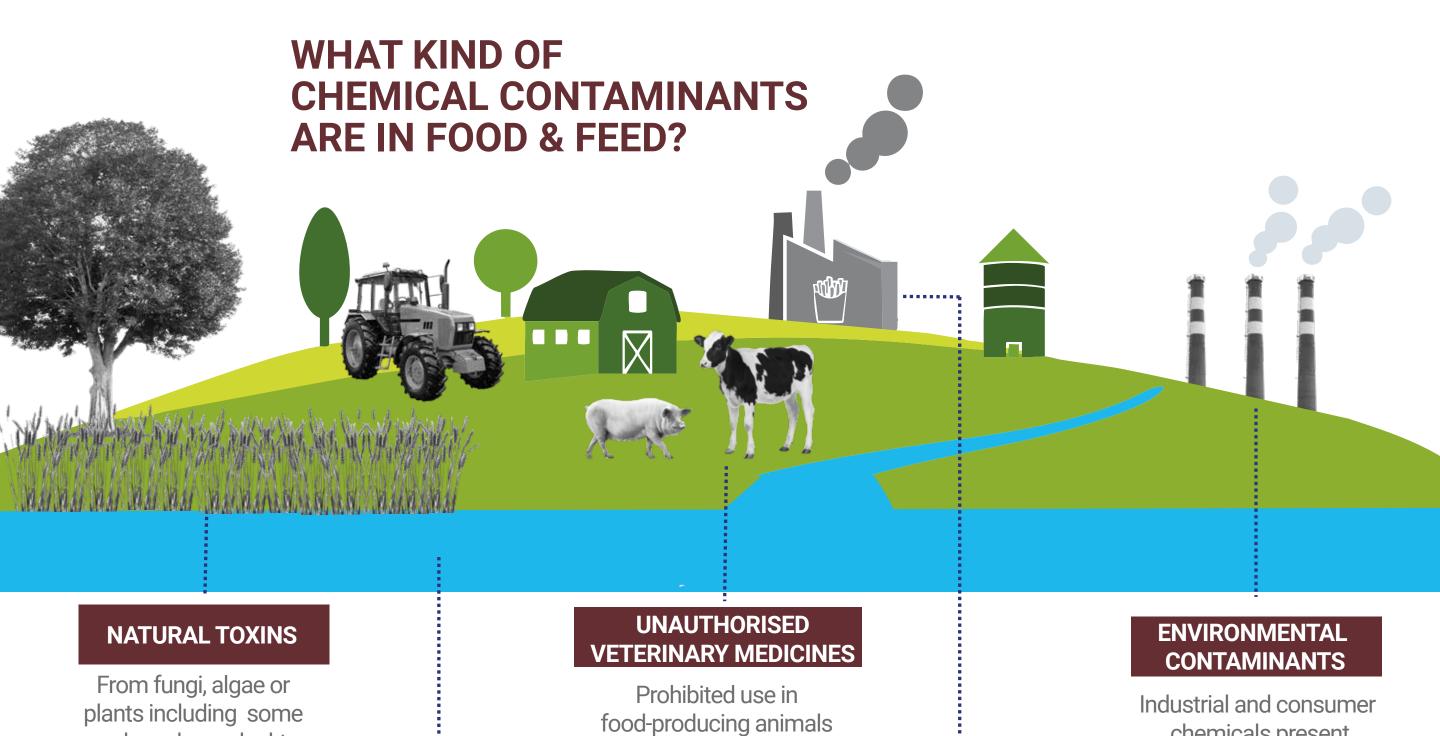
Chemical contaminants in the food chain



Contaminant levels in food and feed are usually too low to harm consumers and animals but they can cause effects such as food poisoning and their presence or accumulation over time might affect animal and human health.



METALS & "INORGANIC" SUBSTANCES

Lead, mercury and substances like nitrates or fluorine

PROCESS CONTAMINANTS

Formed during processing like high-temperature cooking

HOW ARE CONSUMERS & ANIMALS PROTECTED?



weeds and sea plankton

DATA COLLECTION

Member States tell us if foods are contaminated and by how much



RISK ASSESSMENT

Scientists estimate if humans and animals are exposed to contaminants and the potential risks



chemicals present

in air, soil and water

RISK MANAGEMENT

Data and advice provide a scientific basis for decision-making by risk managers

Find out more: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/contaminantsfoodfeed

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