

1308 American Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Nov. 14, 1999

Docket No. 97N-0074
FDA/ Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Ln. Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

5958 '99 NOV 30 110 56

RE: Effective measures to improve food safety.

Currently there is great concern about the drug-resistant bacterial infections caused by inappropriate use of antibiotics. I urge you to address the misuse of antibiotics in the feed of farm animals. More than 40% of all antibiotics sold in the United States are administered to farm animals. The antibiotics help to keep the animals alive in the extremely crowded, highly stressful, and unsanitary conditions of factory farms.

If animals were raised wholesomely and humanely, there would be much less need to give them antibiotics. Not only would food become more healthful, but the dangerous spread of drug-resistant bacterial infections would be curtailed. I do not believe that the problem of drug resistant infections can be solved unless factory farming is prohibited. The cost to American consumers would be negligible. (The National Research Council estimates it to be a mere \$5-\$10 per person annual increase.)

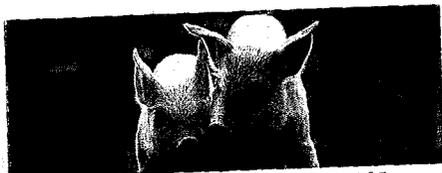
Food safety is going to become increasingly serious problem unless the unhygienic and unsanitary practices of factory farming end and food is produced as it should be - in natural, wholesome ways. I urge you to take remedial action immediately.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Birn

97N-0074



JERRY & KIMBERLY BIRN
1308 American Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025



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