

March 8, 2000

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

2495 '00 AUG 16 P2:25

RE: End Unnecessary and Dangerous Use of Antibiotics

Dr. Jane Henney,

I am writing to you regarding the petition to ban the use of medically useful antibiotics as growth promoters in animals consumed for food.

Other countries, believing that potential human risks are warranted, have acted to reduce the use of antibiotics in agriculture. The European Union had banned the use of four antibiotics in animal feed and is considering the elimination of four others.

Due to increasing evidence, the CDC and the FDA agree that the agricultural use of antibiotics is a significant source of antibiotic resistance among food borne pathogens. Eliminating the use of antibiotics as growth promoters will decrease the occurrence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. This has been illustrated by a recent case in Denmark where growth-promoting antibiotic, avoparcin, was banned. In a three-year period, the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant enterococci bacteria in chicken decline from 82% to 12%.

I am urging you to ban the use of antibiotics as livestock growth promoters.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

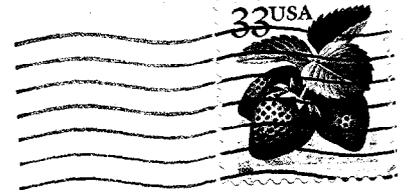


Heather Blue

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