APRIL 2, 2000

2517 '00 AUG 16 P12:26

P.O. BOX 190
OKEANA, OH 45053

JANE HENNEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER
FOOD + DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 FISHERS LANE RM 1471
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857

DEAR DR. HENNEY:

OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS AS GROWTH PROMOTERS IN LIVESTOCK HAS BEEN LINKED TO THE EMERGENCE OF ANTI-BIOTIC-RESISTANT DISEASES. MANY OF THE DRUGS USED TO ENHANCE GROWTH IN CHICKENS, PIGS, AND CATTLE ARE THE SAME AS, OR CLOSELY RELATED TO, THOSE USED TO TREAT PEOPLE.

FEARING A RISE IN UNTREATABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS BANNED ALL GROWTH-PROMOTING USE OF ANTIBIOTICS USED IN HUMAN MEDICINE. IN THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST DRUGS CURRENTLY IN USE. INSTEAD IT HAS MERELY BEGUN A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON NEW APPROVALS OF ANTIBIOTICS.

I URGE YOU AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO FOLLOW THE EUROPEAN UNION'S LEAD AND MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO BAN ANIMAL USES OF GROWTH-PROMOTING ANTIBIOTICS USED IN HUMAN MEDICINE.

SINCERELY, C 2544

Karl R. Feller
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PM
3 APR
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