

36 Bust-O-Dawn Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786

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Sept. 22, 1999

Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (HF-1)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I write out of concern over the looming public-health crisis, as diseases long controlled by antibiotics are becoming more difficult to treat because they no longer respond to previously effective drugs.

Scientists are convinced that drugs given to animals play a role in antibiotic resistance in human diseases. For decades, livestock producers have used antibiotics both to treat diseases and to promote growth in hogs, cows, and chickens. In fact, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, about a third of the antibiotics manufactured in the U.S. each year are added to animal feed to fatten animals cheaply--even though there are other ways to produce safe meat at reasonable prices.

The World Health Organization recommends a ban on the use of medically important antibiotics to promote animal growth. The U.S. should also adopt this position, while still allowing their use to cure sick animals.

I support the petition you have received on this matter from the Center for Science in Public Interest. Please put sick children over cheap meat in your regulation policies. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas E. Wingeler
Dr. Douglas E. Wingeler

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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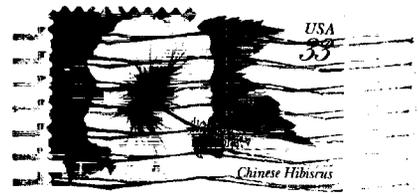
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MR. DOUGLAS E. WINGEIER
36 RUST-O-DAWN
WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786



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