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Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
56000 Fisher Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

9909 '00 FEB 11 A11:52

Dear Dr. Jane Henney:

I am writing to urge you to ban the use of antibiotics as livestock growth promoters. Approximately ninety percent of all antibiotics used in agriculture are given to promote growth or prevent disease, rather than to treat infections. This allows large farming operations to raise animals under factory-like conditions featuring artificial lighting, limited movement, and no access to the outdoors. The benefit to agribusiness is rapid animal growth and lower costs while the cost to consumers is potential for ineffective antibiotic treatments.

Some points of interest:

- 1) Other countries, believing that potential health risks are warranted, have acted to reduce the use of antibiotics in agriculture. The European Union has banned the use of four antibiotics in animal feed and is considering the elimination of four others.
- 2) Due to increasing evidence, the CDC and the FDA agree that the agricultural use of antibiotics is a significant source of antibiotic resistance among foodborne pathogens.
- 3) 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 the growth-promoting antibiotic, avoparcin, was banned. In a three-year period, the prevalence of antibiotic enterococci bacteria in chicken declined from 82% to 12%.

Please stop the unnecessary and dangerous use of antibiotics. Not only is it providing large farming operations the opportunity to treat animals inhumanely it provides potential health risks.

Sincerely,



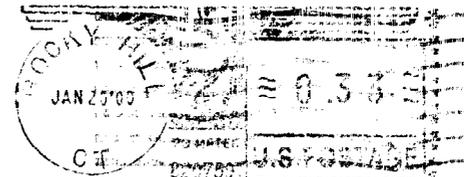
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