

January 10, 2001

Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

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Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am alarmed by the news of antibiotic-resistant infectious diseases in people, resulting from the overuse of antibiotics in both medicine and agriculture. Though antibiotics are surely misused in human medicine, public health experts agree that overuse in agriculture is an important contributor to this serious problem.

Even more upsetting to me is the fact that a staggering amount of drugs are fed to *healthy* animals simply to promote faster growth. This is an unethical and dangerous practice.

I urge you to make it a priority to begin to create an effective national strategy to reduce antibiotic use in agriculture. To begin, some reporting system to collect reliable, precise data on existing antibiotic use in the United States seems like a good first step.

Please let me know what you plan to do in this area. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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