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

Dear Dr. Henney :

When your only antibacterials , besides iodine, were sulfonamides and penicillin, our teachers stressed that they should be used with restraint and only when strongly indicated. I carried out those instructions carefully for the forty years I did internal medicine.

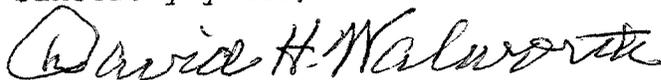
On 1/1/94 I retired and moved to the country. Surrounded by organic farmers I have become sensitized to the loose use of antibiotics in commercial agriculture. I asked about this at Grand Rounds last year and got short shrift. apparently even the infectious disease specialists in their towers are unaware of the magnitude of the problem.

I have reviewed some of the literature, however, and clearly we do not have any quantitative data on how much of which kind of antibiotics are used in the variety of agricultural factories where so much of our food originates now. Agribusiness is no more likely to study this than Johns-Manville did with asbestos.

I suggest that the FDA institute such a study to prove either that we are in trouble or that our fears are groundless.

Thank you. I would like your response to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

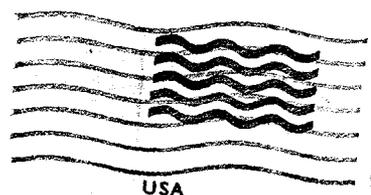


David H. Walworth, MD emeritus

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