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Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
U. S. Food and Drug Administration
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Rockville MD 20857-0001
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Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am writing to make you aware of the problem of overuse of antibiotics. While the misuse of antibiotics in human medicine is the larger contributor to the problem, there is agreement among public health experts that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture such as practice of giving antibiotics to healthy animals for the purpose of growth promotion is also impacting human health by contributing to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms. Reliable data on antibiotic use in agriculture is needed for an effective national strategy to reduce antibiotic use are unavailable.

The FDA should move now to establish a system for collecting basic data on agricultural antibiotic use in the United States. The information should be collected for both human and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period. I urge you to make this a top priority.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

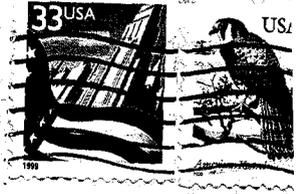
Sincerely,


Sherry Michney

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