

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

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ISSUE: Start a National Antibiotic-Use Reporting System Now

Dear Dr. Henney,

I would like to draw your attention to the issue of the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture that could be contributing to the emergence to untreatable diseases in people.

Reliable data on antibiotic use is needed for an effective national strategy to reduce antibiotic use.

We urge you to establish a reporting system to determine the amount of antibiotics used in U S agriculture. *Please make this a top priority.*

The rise in antibiotic resistance is slowly eliminating the effectiveness of these drugs for treating infectious diseases in people. There is agreement among public health experts that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is also impacting human health by contributing to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms.

But while there is growing acceptance of the causes of antibiotic resistance, there are few publicly available data on the quantity of antibiotics used in the United States- data that are necessary for scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance and for developing rational strategies to curb use.

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.

Thank you, sincerely



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