

January 18, 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 Dr. Henney:

My concern, with others, is the use of antibiotics.

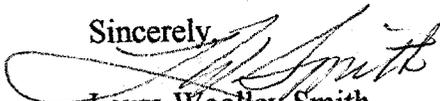
What I really mean is the apparent OVER-use. And I look to your office for "unadulterated" judgments on matters of over-use.

Our marketing society is the root-cause of many problems. Technology develops possibilities, and manufacturers develop products which need to be sold - or oversold. Through information from the Union of Concerned Scientists I have read of the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture and the emergence of untreatable diseases in people!

It appears that there is need of gathering statistics from the agricultural sector to better determine a better course of action for the health of people as well as the farm animals themselves who may not need the "medication."

The FDA, I understand, should establish a system for collecting basic data on agricultural antibiotic use in the USA. Then "the wise use" pronouncement of the FDA should be followed by pharmaceutical laboratories, manufacturers, and farmers----with penalties for not doing so.

Sincerely,



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