

Leah R. Karpen

Leah R. Karpen
400 Charlotte St #803
Asheville NC
28801

Phone: 828-254-5489
FAX: 828-254-4589
email:

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Friday, January 12, 2001

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

Dear Dr. Henney:

Reporting of Antibiotic Use in Agriculture

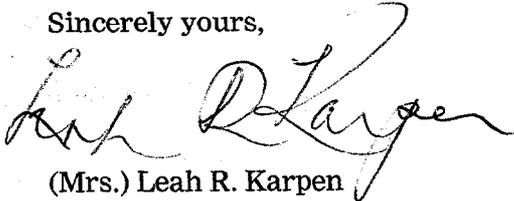
Overuse of antibiotics in agriculture has become increasingly a problem in contributing to untreatable diseases in people. Reliable data on antibiotic use in agriculture is needed to effect a national strategy to reduce antibiotic use.

I ask that you establish, and convey to incoming Bush administration its necessity, a reporting system to determine the quantity of antibiotics used in U.S. agriculture. Such a reporting system should be a top priority.

The rise in antibiotic resistance is eliminating the effectiveness of these drugs for treating infectious diseases in people. However, publicly available data on the quantity of antibiotics used in the U.S. does not exist. Collecting such basic data would be extremely useful -- including the class, indication, dosage and treatment period.

Thank you for considering this request promptly.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Leah R. Karpen

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Karpen
400 Charlotte St. #803
Asheville, NC 28801



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Fockville, MD 20857-0001

20857+0001

