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January 10, 2001

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

Dear Commissioner Henney:

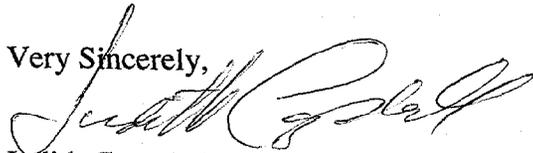
I urge you, and the incoming Bush administration officials at the FDA, to create a federal antibiotic reporting system. **The rise in antibiotic resistance is gradually eliminating the effectiveness of antibiotics for treating infectious diseases in people.** While the misuse of antibiotics in human medicine is certainly a large contributor to the problem, there is agreement among public health experts that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is also negatively impacting human health.

I realize that the Food and Drug Administration has recognized the need for collecting such information, but it has not taken steps to establish the needed system. This data is necessary for scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance and for developing rational strategies to curb use.

In the just released report *Hogging It!*, the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that a staggering 24.6 million pounds - roughly 70 percent of all antibiotic drugs - are fed to healthy cows, pigs, and chickens annually for non-therapeutic purposes such as growth promotion.

**Please make the collecting and reporting data on the quantity of antibiotics used in U.S. agriculture one of the FDA's top priorities.** This information should be collected for both human and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period.

Very Sincerely,

  
Judith Campbell

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