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January 12, 2001

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

Subject: Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture

Commissioner Henney
& incoming Bush administration officials:

There seems to be general agreement among public health experts that over use of antibiotics in agriculture is contributing to the rise, in humans, of drug-resistant microorganisms. Reliable data on antibiotic use in agriculture is needed for an effective national strategy to control the emergence of untreatable diseases in people. Accurate and comprehensive data is needed for scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance. Most all antibiotic drugs in agriculture are fed to healthy cows, pigs and chickens for nontherapeutic purposes such as growth promotion which I believe is a bad and dangerous option.

I strongly urge the FDA to create a federal antibiotic reporting system which is given high priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Elliott M. Krackhardt

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