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

Dear Dr. Henney,

I'm writing to express concern over the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture and the apparent lack of government data or policy on the problem. As I'm sure you're aware, huge quantities of antibiotics are fed to healthy animals in the US in order to speed growth, and health experts agree this is contributing to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms. I'm sure you're also aware of the great disparities in estimates of the amount of antibiotics involved, depending on whether the estimates are coming from industry sources (with obvious conflict of interest in such reports) or independent scientists (who are hampered by the lack of industry reporting). There is clearly a need for reliable data, thorough research based on this data, and strong government policy based on good research.

As you begin your leadership at the FDA, I urge you to make a sound scientific policy on antibiotics in agriculture a priority for your administration.

Sincerely,



Laura Anderson

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