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January 10, 2001

To: Jane E. Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Dear Ms Henney,

I have read the study written by the Union of Concerned Scientists about the use of antibiotics in agriculture. I was appalled to learn that 24,6 millions pounds antibiotics were fed to healthy cows, pigs and chicken annually, just for growth promotion.

Even the arguable number of 17.8 millions pounds of antibiotics, which was reported by industry for all agricultural use of antibiotics, seems much too high to me.

I ask you to reduce the use of antibiotics in agriculture. Not only are antibiotics not especially good for the health of human beings, but the abuse of them leads to antibiotic resistance. It is therefore absurd and a waste of money and of public health to persist in feeding the animals we eat a dosage of antibiotics which renders antibiotics ultimately inefficient.

I also ask you to establish a system for collecting basic data on agricultural antibiotic use in the United States. The information should be collected for both humans and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage and treatment period.

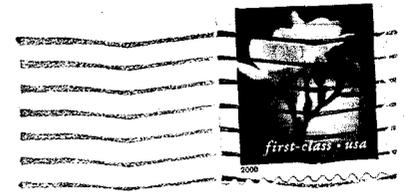
Very truly yours,

*M-H Luebbers*

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