

January 9, 2001

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

Re: National Antibiotic-Use Reporting System

Dear Dr. Henney,

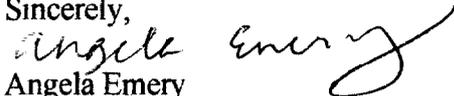
I see a large need for studying the use of antibiotics in livestock raised in this country. As a scientist, I know that having accurate information is critical to studying cause-effect relationships. With the possibility (and evidence mounting) of human resistance developing to antibiotics used to prevent serious diseases, there is a significant hole in the information we need to be completely accountable. We cannot solve a problem unless we know what the problem is.

A report by the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that 24.6 million pounds, or approximately 70 percent of the antibiotic drugs produced in the nation, are given to livestock. However, only 17.8 million pounds are reported by agricultural industries. The actual amount is probably somewhere in between, but given the discrepancy between these two, it is apparent that a major study is needed.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is the most appropriate agency to take this study on and to provide the scientific community and the public with unbiased information. The proposed study should include both human and agricultural use, and should look at the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period of the antibiotics.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Angela Emery
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Seattle, WA 98199

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