27 June 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, commissioner
US Food and Drug administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, Maryland 20857

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Dear Dr. Jane Henney,

This letter is an expression of alarm due to the constant use of antibiotics in animal feed, here in the ~~the~~ U.S. As you are probably aware, farmers in this country purchase about 40% of all antibiotics ~~used in this~~ used. Much of this is used in feed to prevent livestock from getting and passing diseases among themselves. However, traces of these antibiotics remain in tissue which humans then consume. These trace chemicals then cause humans to build resistance against the very medicines that should help cure them of disease. Clearly this is not a good situation.

To put an end to this problem, I strongly urge you to completely ban the use of antibiotics in animal feed. This practice has been abandoned in Sweden since 1986 with no apparent deleterious effects. In 1997 the World Health Organization recommended a ban on antibiotics in feed, as well.

I realize that the pharmaceutical companies do not favor the ban. They will lose money over it. But which should come first, the companies or people? The answer should be obvious.

So, please do what you can to put this ban in place and show the world's agricultural communities that the U.S. has its priorities in place.

Sincerely,
Cathryn Baker

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