

July 21, 2004

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Dr. Lester Crawford  
Acting Director  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Mail Stop HF-1  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Crawford:

I am writing to express my concern over the recent ruling to withdraw Baytril from use in poultry. Having been a poultry veterinarian for almost 20 years, I have been impressed with the responsibility shown by poultry veterinarians in their prescribed use of antibiotics. Almost every prescription written for Baytril has been supported by a culture and sensitivity of the susceptible organism; a fact that few of our colleagues in human medicine can claim on their prescriptions for fluoroquinolones.

Baytril is used in less than 1% of chickens and is possibly the only effective product for *E. coli* infection in broilers. Healthy birds become healthy food, which is beneficial to the American public.

I have followed the proceedings resulting in the decision to withdraw Baytril from poultry. It appears that the scientific facts were largely ignored in favor of a popular agenda. I feel this is a detriment to science, the veterinary profession and the public health in general. We should not loose effective products when they are being used in a responsible manner

I ask that you consider the science supporting the continued use of Baytril as a therapeutic antibiotic in poultry and urge you to overturn Judge Davidson's ruling until further review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



C. Stephen Roney DVM, MAM  
Diplomate, ACPV  
Director Veterinary Services  
Gold Kist, Inc.  
Atlanta, Georgia

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