



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

HFA-305

MAR 28 2000

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

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Ms. Rhoda Elovitz
7920 Rockwood La., #118
Austin, TX 78757

Dear Ms. Elovitz:

This is in response to your letter dated September 1, 1999, forwarded to us from the Environmental Protection Agency on February 11, 2000, concerning antibiotics used in livestock.

The Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is a public health organization under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that helps to ensure the safety of the food supply and assists in providing for the health care needs of animals through the approval and post-approval monitoring of safe and effective animal drugs, medical devices, and feeds.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us. The use of drugs in livestock and poultry is strictly regulated. Before any drug intended for use in animals is approved, it must undergo extensive chemical and toxicological testing which must demonstrate that the food from these animals is safe for human consumption. Withdrawal periods for drugs in edible tissues, which are based upon the depletion and elimination of the drug to a safe residue level in those tissues, ensures that the food we eat is safe. In addition, milk discard times are established to ensure that any drug residues in milk are not harmful for human health. If an illegal drug residue is detected, FDA investigates the matter and takes regulatory action, if necessary. FDA believes that our residue monitoring program effectively protects the public from any potentially unsafe residue of animal drugs in meat and milk.

FDA is taking a close look at the rules for approving antibiotics for food animal use in the U.S. Enclosed please find a copy of the Framework Document, as well as a chronology on the use of antibiotics in animal feeds. Please be assured that we take our responsibility to ensure the safety of the food supply very seriously. I am forwarding your letter to Dockets Management Branch for inclusion in Docket Number 99P-0485 -- Rescind Approval of Subtherapeutic Antibiotic Use in Livestock. If you have access to the Internet, please visit our Home Page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Sincerely yours,

Karen A. Kandra
Karen A. Kandra
Consumer Safety Officer
Center for Veterinary Medicine

Enclosures

99P-0485

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C2451 /ANS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 11 2000

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Ms. Rhoda Elovitz
7920 Rockwood Lane #118
Austin, TX 78757

Dear Ms. Elovitz:

Thank you for your letter to EPA Administrator Carol Browner regarding the use of antibiotics in livestock feed.

I regret that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot respond substantively to your comments on this specific subject since it falls outside the jurisdiction of this Agency. I am, therefore, forwarding your correspondence to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, for response.

Please be assured that your interest in this issue is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Lee Hudnall".

Sandra Lee Hudnall
Director

cc: Catherine P. Beck (Acting)
Office of the Executive Secretariat/Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Room 16-70 PKLN
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201



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From: <Ronya2@aol.com>
To: DCWSM03.DCADMIN1(BROWNER-CAROL),DCWIC01.IN("senato...
Date: 9/1/99 7:26pm
Subject: Ban Human Antibiotics in Livestock Feed

Dear Carol Browner, President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, Senator Hutchison, Senator Gramm, Representative Doggett, Senator Lott, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, Senator Dodd,

Ban Human Antibiotics in Livestock Feed

In August, Working Assets members will be calling on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of antibiotics useful for humans in livestock feed. For more than forty years, antibiotics used to treat human disease have been routinely fed to poultry, cattle and pigs to speed their growth or counteract the effects of crowded living conditions and poor hygiene.

Most would be shocked to learn that roughly 40% of the 50 million pounds of antibiotics produced every year in the U.S. is used in livestock feed.

Mounting evidence shows that the routine use of human antibiotics in livestock feed may diminish the drug's ability to cure infections in people.

The FDA has the legal authority and the responsibility to ensure that the use of antibiotics in livestock feed does not endanger human health. Yet they have spent over twenty years deciding whether, or how, they will regulate the use of penicillin, tetracycline and other commonly used antibiotics.

The World Health Organization called for a ban of such use in 1997 with the Centers for Disease Control and American Public Health Association quickly following suit. Sweden, Denmark, and the European Union have already enacted similar bans.

Sincerely,
Rhoda Elovitz
7920 Rockwood Lane #118
Austin, TX 78757