

Dr. Jane Henney  
Commissioner, FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

December 21, 1999

2545 '00 JAN -6 AM 10:07

Dear Dr. Henney,

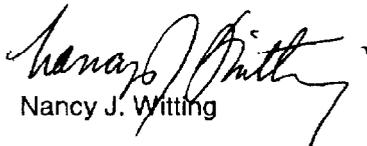
I am writing to you about the **overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock in this country.**

Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs, and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people. Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the **emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases.**

Because it fears a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has sensibly banned all growth-promoting uses of those antibiotics that are used in human medicine. In the United States, however, the Food and Drug Administration has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has merely begun a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics.

**I urge the FDA to follow the EU's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.**

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Witting

23 Powderhouse Terrace  
West Somerville, MA 02144