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December 30, 1999

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

Dear Dr. Henney,

I urge you to ban the use of growth-promoting antibiotics for use in animals which are eaten. I thoroughly agree with Europe on this. As long as this use is allowed, American farmers feel they have to use these substances or suffer a disadvantage to their colleagues who do feed them. The overuse of antibiotics will cause the development of resistant strains of bacteria which we will then have no defense against.

In addition to the health risk there is a foolish trade war between Europe and the US caused by our insistence that Europe must buy US hormone-fed beef. Free trade, in my opinion, is when the consumer is free to buy what he wishes and the producer complies by making a product the consumer wants.

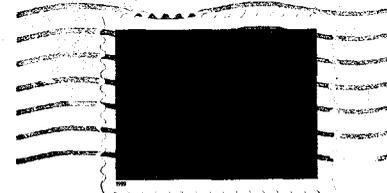
Sincerely yours,

D. Eugene Hokanson

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