

Mavrik Zavarin, Ph.D.
864 44th Street
Oakland, CA 94608
(510) 601-9244
(925) 424-6491
zavarin1@llnl.gov

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January 8, 2001

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Dr Henney:

I am writing you to voice my concern regarding the lack of oversight in the use of antibiotics in agriculture. I urge you to establish a viable reporting system to determine the quantity of antibiotics used in U.S. agriculture. As a consumer and scientist, I am deeply concerned with the overuse of both antibiotics and pesticides. Growth of the organic agriculture business in the U.S. clearly indicates that the issue of antibiotic use in agriculture is of great concern not only to me, but to many in the U.S. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has the job of scrutinizing potential hazards in all aspects of U.S. agriculture. I hope that you, in cooperation with the new administration, will make the issue of antibiotic use in agriculture a priority. Only then will U.S. consumers and scientists be able to fully assess the possible ramifications of antibiotic overuse, not the least of which is bacterial drug resistance.

Sincerely,

Mavrik Zavarin, Ph.D.



Staff Geochemist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

P.S. Please respond to this letter by email or letter to ensure that you received my letter of concern.

SSP-0435

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Mavrik Zavarin
864 44th St
Oakland, CA 94608-3402



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Rockville, M.D. 20857-0001

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