

Barbara Curtis
647-A Nutley Drive
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

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Jane E. Henney, MD, Commissioner
US Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

January 10, 2001

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I am concerned that the overuse of antibiotics in livestock is causing the increase of resistant strains of bacteria with the resulting emergence of untreatable diseases in people. Public health officials agree that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is impacting human health by contributing to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms. However there is insufficient data available to enable scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance and for developing rational strategies to curb use.

Please establish a reporting system to determine the quantity of antibiotics used in US agriculture. This would be an important tool for the improvement of improving human health.

Thank you.

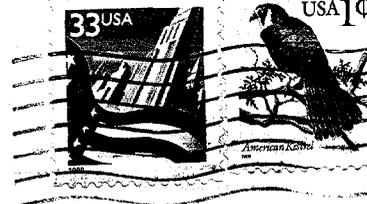
Yours truly,

Barbara Curtis

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Jara Curtis
Nutley Dr
NJ 08512



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