

26 December 2000

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Dr. Henney:

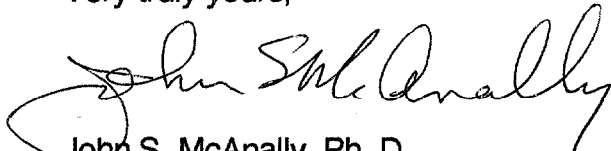
Almost fifty years ago as a biochemist teaching in a medical school I was disturbed by the widespread overuse of penicillin. Subsequent continuing indiscriminate prescription of antibiotics has contributed to the proliferation of drug resistant strains of human pathogens.

Today the use of antibiotics as growth stimulants in livestock raised for human consumption is considered by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in a number of food-borne bacteria.

It is imperative that this use of antibiotics be terminated, or phased out as rapidly as possible, if the compounds are employed in the treatment of human illnesses.

I urge you to move rapidly before more diseases become untreatable with the antibiotics available to the medical profession.

Very truly yours,

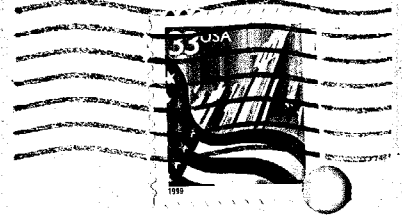


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