

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

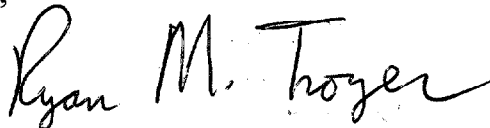
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January 10, 2001

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to express my concern with the current use of medically-important antibiotics in agriculture in this country. As a student of public health, I am well aware that most scientists agree that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is contributing to the development of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms in the environment which endangers public health by eliminating the effectiveness of these drugs in treating human infections. I believe that part of the problem lies in the fact that we do not have accurate and reliable information on the extent of usage of drugs in agriculture because this use is not highly regulated. Therefore I strongly urge you to make it a top priority to develop an antibiotic reporting system that would compile data on the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period of antibiotics used in agriculture and in humans. This system would provide scientists with the necessary information to examine the link between use of antibiotics in agriculture and the development of drug-resistance as well as contributing to the development of plans to curb antibiotic usage.

Sincerely,



Ryan M. Troyer

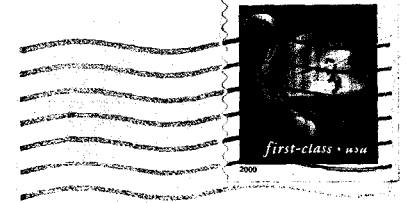
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