

January 8, 2001

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

7 3 4 8 '01 JAN 25 AM 10

Subject: Collect and Report Data on the Quantity of Antibiotics Use in U.S. Agriculture.

I wish to urge both Commissioner Henney and incoming Bush administration officials at the FDA to create a federal antibiotic reporting system as a top priority.

The rise in antibiotic resistance is slowly eliminating the effectiveness of antibiotics for treating infectious diseases in people. There is agreement among public health experts that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is one impact that contributes to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms.

**I am a grandmother who is worried about the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture because it could affect the health of my grandchildren.**

While there is growing acceptance of the causes of antibiotic resistance, there are few publicly available data on the quantity of antibiotics used in the United States - data that are necessary for scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance and for developing rational strategies to curb use.

The Food and Drug Administration has recognized the need for collecting such information, but it has not taken steps to establish the needed system. The FDA should move now to establish a system for collecting basic data on agricultural antibiotic use in the United States. **The information should be collected for both human and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period.**

I would appreciate hearing from the FDA as to whether creating a federal antibiotic reporting system will be a top priority under the Bush administration.

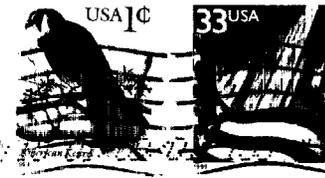
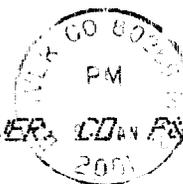
Thank you,

*M. Virginia Grady*

M. Virginia Grady  
2950 Xenon Street  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215  
303/234-9329

C2867

M. Virginia Grady  
2950 Xenon Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215



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Rockville, MD 20857-0001

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