

March 8, 2001

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

Dear Ms. Henney,

It has come to my attention that the FDA is dragging its feet about a very important issue. Many of the same drugs doctors use to treat illness such as food poisoning and staph infections are also used to raise livestock for food. These antibiotics are also fed daily to healthy animals because producers believe that their animals reach slaughter weight sooner.

The CDC considers the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in foodborne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. Because of this, conditions are being created where bacteria can quickly develop resistance to these drugs. When this happens doctors have fewer tools to combat human diseases.

While you study this problem, how many diseases will become untreatable? I believe the time to act is now! Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,



Kathy Anderson  
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