



KEEP OUR ANTIBIOTICS WORKING

SB-607/HB-829



Stop the Routine Use of Antibiotics for Farm Animals

To combat the spread of bacterial drug-resistance, antibiotics for food animal use should be used sparingly, and only on sick animals.

But many food animals are fed a daily dose of antibiotics to help them gain weight or to prevent disease caused by unsanitary conditions – not to treat illness.

Routinely feeding antibiotics to animals that are not sick kills off weak bacteria, but allows antibiotic-resistant superbugs to develop and multiply.

If we want to keep antibiotics working for future generations, we need to stop the routine use of medically important antibiotics in livestock production.

This would still allow antibiotic use when an animal is sick or to stop an outbreak.

Antibiotics Overuse: Why it Matters

We rely on antibiotics to treat everything from simple infections like strep throat, to more serious illnesses like pneumonia. Unfortunately, these drugs are beginning to fail.

- *At least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.*
- *As least 23,000 people die from antibiotic-resistant bacteria.*
- *We lose at least \$55 billion/yr due to excess hospital costs and lost worker productivity.*

The Problem: Overuse of Antibiotics on Livestock

70% of the medically important antibiotics sold in the US are sold for use to raise chickens, hogs, and cattle on large farms.

The majority of this is not to treat sick animals. Many food animals are fed a daily dose of antibiotics to help them gain weight or to prevent disease caused by unsanitary conditions.

This accelerates the development of drug-resistant bacteria, which can then find their way to human populations through contaminated food, airborne dust blowing off farms, and water or soil polluted with contaminated feces.



“Antimicrobial resistance is a growing public health crisis. ... Because of the link between antibiotic use in food-producing animals and the occurrence of antibiotic-resistant infections in humans, antibiotic agents should be used in food-producing animals only to treat and control infectious diseases and not to promote growth or to prevent disease routinely.”

-American Academy of Pediatrics Technical Report, November 2015

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