



FOOD ANIMAL CONCERNS TRUST

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For Immediate Release

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CONSUMER ADVOCACY NONPROFIT APPLAUDS WORLD HEALTH CALL FOR REDUCING ANTIBIOTIC OVERUSE

Food Animal Concerns Trust has addressed agriculture and antibiotic overuse for 35 years

Chicago, IL – Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) applauds the release today of new World Health Organization (WHO) [guidelines](#) on reducing the use of medically important antibiotics in food animals. The WHO calls on countries to prohibit the use of medically important antibiotics in food animals for growth promotion and disease prevention. In addition, the WHO recommends that the antibiotics most important for use in human medicine not be used at all, or be used only to treat sick animals for which nothing else will work.

“The WHO is once again leading the way on stopping the spread of antibiotic-resistant superbugs. These new recommendations, if followed, will make a huge difference in addressing the overuse of antibiotics on farm. Since most of antibiotics are used on the farm both globally and nationally, these new guidelines are vitally needed,” said Steven Roach, Food Safety Program Director for FACT. “FACT has long called for a prohibition on the use of medically important antibiotics for routine disease prevention. Hopefully now that the WHO—the leading voice for global health—has made the same call, both companies and countries will listen.”

A WHO expert committee developed these guidelines based on systematic reviews of the available evidence on the link between antibiotic use in food animals and human health.

In 2000 the WHO [recommended](#) that medically important antibiotics not be used for growth promotion. Since that time, most major food producing countries have adopted the recommendation, including the US. This is the first time since 2000 that the WHO has made comprehensive recommendations on the use of antibiotics in food animals.

At a July meeting hosted by the international food standard-setting body Codex Alimentarius, the U.S. government questioned the appropriateness of the WHO making recommendations on the use of antibiotics on farms. The WHO responded by pointing to the clear impact on human health of antibiotic overuse in animal agriculture.

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FACT promotes the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs. Learn more at www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org.

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