

July 18, 2022

The undersigned members and allies of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition recommend that The White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health include the impacts of how food is produced on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Specifically, we ask that the conference address the harms to health from the overuse of antibiotics in food production and from the use of carcinogens such as the pig feed additive carbadox. In addition, we ask that nutritional benefits related to raising animals outdoors on pasture be discussed. We support efforts to address hunger that emphasize food sovereignty over charity.

Antibiotic resistance is a leading global health threat and cause of death that has only been made worse by the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Addressing antibiotic resistance requires reducing the amount of antibiotics that are used since this is the primary driver of resistance. In the U.S about two thirds of medically important antibiotics are used for food animal production not human medicine and these lifesaving drugs are often given not to treat illness but instead given to prevent illness created by unhealthy conditions on farms and feedlots. Leadership from the White House is needed to reduce this overuse. This should include setting a target for use reductions, prohibiting the use of antibiotics in animals that are not sick, and creating a system to track how antibiotics are used on farms and feedlots. We recommend that the White House announce a goal to reduce antibiotic use in food animals [by 50% from a baseline level of use from 2010](#).

If we want to have safe and healthy food, we need to stop adding known carcinogens to our food supply. Carbadox, a known carcinogen, is fed to [over half the pigs raised in the U.S](#). When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the feed additive in the 1970s, the agency thought no residues ended up in pork, but they have known since at [least 2016](#) that the studies finding no residues were flawed. Six years later, the drug is still fed to most pigs in the U.S. As part of its [Cancer Moon Shot](#), the Biden Administration should ban the use of this drug and work to change regulations to prohibit the use of carcinogens as approved food animal drugs.

How we raise animals can also lead to healthier food. [Studies consistently](#) show that pasture-raised animals produce nutritionally superior meat, milk and eggs. When compared to food from animals that were fed grain and raised in confinement, food from animals raised on pasture has better fat quality and increased levels of essential vitamins and nutrients. Recent research has found a more extensive increase in vitamins and nutrients as well as an increase in specific healthy fats that help with neural health, cancer, and obesity. We ask the White House to consider steps to [encourage more pasture-based production of meat milk and eggs](#).

Our unhealthy food system is also unjust with food production and distribution controlled by national and multinational corporations and access to safe and healthy food unequally distributed. Current models to address hunger too often rely on charity where people are given

food. We recommend that the federal government invest much more in [food sovereignty](#) where communities have more control over their own food production and distribution. This will require strengthening existing [Indigenous Food Sovereignty](#) efforts and providing significantly more resources for [community food systems](#).

Food Animal Concerns Trust
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, George Washington University
Center for Food Safety
Earthjustice
Health Care Without Harm
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
U.S. PIRG