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Dear poultry producer:

We are writing to update you on the recent developments concerning the use of agricultural antibiotics. As you may know from previous mailings from the *Keep Antibiotics Working* coalition, there is growing concern about the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases as a result of the overuse of medically important antibiotics in animal agriculture.

Included with this letter are:

- 1) A compilation of recent statements from major US poultry companies and restaurant chains on their reductions in antibiotic use.
- 2) A summary of HR 3804, a bill to phase out medically-important agricultural antibiotics, and press clippings on the introduction of the bill by Representative Sherrod Brown (D-OH).
- 3) New relevant studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Environmental Science & Technology*.
- 4) Newspaper articles on Russia's recent decision to stop buying US poultry citing antibiotic concerns.
- 5) Other recent press clippings and newspaper editorials.

As the attached list of company statements demonstrates, both production companies and fast-food retailers have recently taken public positions on antibiotic use in poultry production. Five top poultry companies - Perdue, ConAgra, Wayne Farms, Foster Farms and Claxton - have publicly stated that they have completely eliminated the nontherapeutic use of medically important antibiotics like tetracycline and penicillin. Perdue and ConAgra have also said they no longer use fluoroquinolone drugs in any phase of poultry production.

In addition, several major restaurant chains, including KFC, McDonald's, Wendy's and Popeyes, have announced that they will not purchase poultry raised with fluoroquinolones.

We congratulate and thank those companies for taking positive steps to protect public health.

Keep Antibiotics Working now urges all poultry production companies to reduce antibiotic use by committing to two steps:

- 1) Stop the nontherapeutic use (for growth promotion or disease prevention) of all the classes of medically important antibiotics listed in HR 3804: penicillins, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincomycin, bacitracin, virginiamycin, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides.
- 2) Stop the use of fluoroquinolones in any phase of chicken and turkey production, including broilers, breeding stock, and layers.

We will be communicating your position - or lack thereof - to our more than nine million members and to the general public through the internet, media, and our publications, which include a shopper's guide.

Please let us know that you have taken the two steps set forth above by contacting Michael Khoo at the Union of Concerned Scientists (202-223-6133). We would like to be able to include your company among those that have taken these steps to protect public health.

Sincerely,

David Wallinga, M.D., Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Margaret Mellon, Ph.D., J.D., Union of Concerned Scientists
Michael Khoo, Union of Concerned Scientists

Attachments