

For the Record

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Straight talk about antibiotic use in food animal production presented by ALPHARMA Inc., Animal Health

COULD BANNING FARM ANTIBIOTICS LEAD TO MORE FOOD BORNE DISEASE?

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For the record...

Research suggests banning the use of antibiotics which help protect animals from diseases that could infect humans might be more than needless over-precaution. It could actually hurt food safety.

'Growing evidence points to the possibility antibiotics aren't simply safe and effective in keeping animals healthy — they may actually help keep consumers safe by preventing food-borne disease.'

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Principal Points
Antibiotics guard food safety
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- Modern food-production technology enables animal producers to control many of the potential contaminating factors surrounding the naturally often messy business of raising food.
- One of those tools may be the use of antibiotics to keep animals in top condition and to help prevent disease.
- Several studies demonstrate judicious use of medications helps control infectious disease organisms that can occur virtually everywhere in the chain, whether on large farms or small, local, traditional farms. Controlling those bacteria as part of a wider system reduces risk of contamination in food growing, processing and delivery.
- Such management is one reason the U.S. food supply has grown safer, not more risky, over the past decade, as witnessed by the declining incidence of most food-borne diseases.
- Recent studies have also found animal products from organic farms tend to be more often contaminated with bacteria that can cause human illness. Small size, older animals, non-use of antibiotics and processing in smaller, less-modern processing plants all may contribute to their increased risk.

For the Record, sponsored by a grant from ALPHARMA Inc., Animal Health, is designed to help unite the industry and provide a unified, rational message on behalf of producers whose freedom to use safe, effective, economical production methods is at stake. Working together, we can set the record straight on antibiotics.

Questions or comments? E-mail Steve Kopperud at skopperud@poldir.com or editor Mike Smith at CustomMedia@Food360.com. Read past issues or link to more information on this issue at www.AntibioticTruths.com.

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