

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2015

Contact: Katie Andriulli

kandriulli@mrss.com / (917) 438-4605

NEW FDA DATA SHOW RISING TRENDS IN ANTIBIOTIC USE ON FARMS

Chicago, IL -- Today [FDA released a new summary report](#) on sales and distribution of antibiotics in food-producing animals, as required by the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA). Disappointingly, the report shows that antibiotic sales have continued to increase, despite industry claims to be scaling back on use.

Susan Vaughn Grooters, policy analyst for [Keep Antibiotics Working](#) (KAW), a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare, and other advocacy groups dedicated to ending the inappropriate use of antibiotics in food animals, issued the following statement in response:

“The data released today shows us that, despite industry assurances to the contrary, the use of human antibiotics on the farm have continued to rise, and specifically the use of the critically important antibiotic class cephalosporins (12% increase from 2013 through 2014) which the FDA placed restrictions on in 2012. Antibiotic sales of medically important antibiotics went up by 23% over the past 5 years of which we have data, while animal production did not. This is indicative of a production system that is clearly not sustainable.

This troubling trend reaffirms that an approach, based largely on voluntary industry reductions, is inadequate faced with the public health crisis of antibiotic resistance. There is no indication that FDA's change in policy has yet resulted in any meaningful reductions on antibiotic sales and usage in food animal production. Over the counter sales clearly indicate that veterinary oversight couldn't come soon enough. Improvements to data presentation in this report will help bolster the need for further policy changes.

As the coalition has been saying for years, FDA must set clear targets for the reduction in antibiotic use. Otherwise, industry will continue to conduct business as usual, while the crisis of resistance continues to loom large and consumers pay the price.”

If you'd like to connect with members of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition for further comment, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (917) 438-4605.

###

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than 11 million supporters. Learn more at www.keepantibioticsworking.com.