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The Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse

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Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition Encouraged by FDA's Transparency on Guidance 213 Implementation; Remains Skeptical that FDA's Approach Will Significantly Reduce Antibiotic Overuse

Washington, DC -- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today released [an update on implementation](#) of Guidance 213, a limited voluntary plan that depends on the pharmaceutical industry taking action to reduce antibiotic overuse in food animals. FDA announced that it is "encouraged by the strong response" thus far from industry to the Guidance, and that all but one drug company has committed in writing to reducing their use of antibiotics for routine growth promotion.

Steven Roach, Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working, issued the following statement in response to today's announcement:

"Keep Antibiotics Working appreciates the level of transparency FDA has shown in releasing this information. We asked FDA to provide this type of information and it is helpful to have it made available so quickly. At the same time, we remain skeptical that FDA's approach will do much to mitigate the public health threat caused by antibiotic resistance.

First, these letters submitted by the drug companies are not binding, so the companies can still stop participating at any time. Even more important, FDA has done nothing to limit the continued use of antibiotics for routine disease prevention. In terms of dose, duration, and number of animals the drug is being administered to, this type of use can be identical to growth promotion, which the FDA is asking the companies to phase out. FDA's failure to make any progress on collecting needed information on what animals receive antibiotics for which purposes will greatly limit our ability to see if the voluntary plan is working.

Finally, FDA has recently proposed to throw out existing rules on how drugs administered in feeds can be used, allowing for continuous widespread use of these drugs in animals that are not sick. Getting the companies to send letters is the easy part, actually reducing antibiotic overuse is the real challenge."

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

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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.