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Contact: Katie Andriulli (202) 478-6138

kandriulli@mrss.com

**KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING APPLAUDS CDC RECOMMENDATIONS TO
HELP CURB GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

Coalition Calls for Stronger Federal Response to Eliminate Antibiotics, Essential for Human Medicine, for Production Purposes in Food Animals and Increase Collection of Data on Antibiotic Use on Farms

Washington, D.C. – Keep Antibiotics Working, a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare, and other advocacy groups, today applauded the CDC for its new report, “Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013,” which lays out a series of recommendations designed to help curb the emergence and spread of dangerous antibiotic-resistant ‘superbugs.’ As the report acknowledges, more antibiotics are now used in food animal production than in human medicine. This large scale use can harm public health by contributing to the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria through the food supply that leads to resistant infections in people.

“As an organization that has been pushing for a stronger federal response to the looming crisis of antibiotic resistance, we are pleased to see the CDC addressing the issue through a concrete set of recommendations, including phasing out the use of drugs for growth promotion in food animals, putting safeguards in place to prevent infections before they happen, and collecting more data on how antibiotics are used on the farm,” said Steven Roach, Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working. “CDC’s report does not shy away from pointing out the role of animal agriculture in the crisis when appropriate, stating that resistant Salmonella and Campylobacter which are carried by food animals pose a ‘serious’ risk to human health.”

The CDC found that there are at least two million serious, antibiotic-resistant infections in the US each year that result in over 23,000 deaths, and Campylobacter and Salmonella are among the most common causes of these infections, leading to over 400,000 illnesses combined.

Although the CDC’s recommendations are encouraging, Roach stressed that they are toothless without a strong plan of action on the part of the FDA, the White House, the USDA and Congress. This plan of action should address not only growth promotion uses of antibiotics but also disease prevention uses, so that we change how antibiotics are used in animal agriculture and not just how they are labeled.

“The CDC does not have the resources or authority to tackle this incredibly serious problem on its own. Two million resistant illnesses is far too many, and yet our leaders in

Washington have failed to address this crisis in a meaningful way, either through inaction or by taking half measures that in no way match the scale of the crisis. The most glaring example of this is Guidance 213, a limited voluntary plan to reduce antibiotic overuse which has languished at the FDA for over a year without being finalized.”

“We hope that our leaders will take the report’s findings to heart and support legislation such as the recently introduced Senate bill the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance (PAR) Act, and its companion legislation in the House, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), which would help put the CDC's recommendations into effect and do much to curb routine antibiotic misuse.”

If you’d like to connect with Steven Roach or other members of the Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition for further comment on the CDC report findings, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (202) 478-6138.

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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.