



Northeast
Agribusiness
& Feed Alliance

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance Supports Appropriate Use of Antibiotics

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA) and the Animal Agriculture Alliance have joined 27 other businesses and organizations in response to radical claims made by the activist organization Friends of Earth (FOE). The protest group attacked approved production practices used by beef and pork ranchers and farmers supplying meat to leading food chains. Signers of the rebuttal letter recognize that U.S. farmers and ranchers provide the world's safest food supply to families across the globe. "Farmers are deservedly proud of the quality of the food they produce from healthy, well managed animals," said NEAFA president, Andy Dugan. He added "Antibiotics are valuable tools, they cannot be used unless a licensed veterinarian makes the judgment a disease threat exists."

A recent report "Chain Reaction," produced by the FOE critiqued industry progress in eliminating what it called the 'routine' use of antibiotics in animal agriculture and concluded that companies were making positive steps concerning antibiotic use in their chicken supply chains, but 'lag' on beef, pork and turkey.

In refuting the false claims made of the FOE the partner organizations, including NEAFA, stated antibiotics that are similar to those used in human medicine cannot legally be used to promote growth in food animals. The growth promotion uses of medically important antibiotics have been eliminated, and all remaining uses of these antibiotics in animal feed and water must be done under the supervision of a veterinarian.

In its letter to the restaurants targeted by FOE the Alliance stated that remaining uses of antibiotics carry are targeted by the FDA at a specific disease or pathogen. Their use is not routine and activist groups like FOE are now pressuring companies to make decisions that will ultimately jeopardize the health and well-being of animals raised for food production. The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance is a 300 member network committed to supporting a thriving northeast agricultural community through advocacy, education and collaboration. Members of the Alliance include feed, seed, fertilizer companies, financial service providers, transportation companies, veterinarians, nutritional services providers, and professional advisors.

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