

# Crawford Stewardship Project



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## **RE: the use of human Antibiotics in farming**

I am writing on behalf of the 680 supporters of Crawford Stewardship Project. As advocates for farm families in Western Wisconsin, we are highly concerned about the current use of human antibiotics in agriculture.

It is estimated that up to 70 percent of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. are given to healthy food animals. As doctors have always warned, administering low doses of antibiotics over long periods of time is exactly the wrong way to treat these life saving drugs, but that is precisely what is happening. On many industrial farms across our nation, human antibiotics are being administered to healthy animals in low dosages over long periods of time, not to treat any illness whatsoever.

Taking action on the use of human antibiotics industrial farms would benefit Wisconsin in the following ways. First, by protecting people from potential life threatening diseases that are born on industrial farms. Second, by upholding the efficacy of antibiotics for patient use, especially when a life is on the line, or in elderly folks. The AMA and many medical groups support a change because it is doctors that depend daily on these life saving drugs to do their jobs. And lastly, by helping to encourage and improve our agricultural system. Wisconsin is home to tens of thousands of family farms who use antibiotics wisely, they let their cows out to pasture, and they actually care about the lives of each animal on the farm. Upholding those values is important, and at the same time we need to send a message to industrial farms that they should consider a more ethical way to raise and take care of

their animals. Its what's best for all people, for animals and especially for those who need antibiotics to work because their lives depend upon it.

Respectfully,

Edie Ehlert,  
Crawford Stewardship Project Coordinator

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