

# The Pew Charitable Trusts: Email - Update: Help Protect Kids Like Ruby

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9:00 AM



## HUMAN HEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL FARMING

Dear Supporter

Below is your January 2012 newsletter from [the Pew Campaign on Human Health and Industrial Farming](#). In this edition:

- FDA Takes Measures to Preserve Effectiveness of an Important Antibiotic
- Ruby's Story: A Family Affected by Foodborne Illness
- Our Supporters Continue to Grow

### FDA Takes Measures to Preserve Effectiveness of Cephalosporins

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an updated rule that will limit the uses of cephalosporins in food animal production. This restriction is a victory for human health as it will help ensure this critically important class of antibiotics will continue to work to treat life-threatening infections today and in the future.

First discovered more than 60 years ago, cephalosporins have become a vital class of antibiotics for treating people suffering from bacterial meningitis; infections associated with cancer; and infections of the bone, urinary tract, and upper respiratory system. These drugs are especially important for treating children; unlike other antibiotics such as fluoroquinolones and tetracyclines, they carry no specific warnings or precautions for use in children.

This is not the first time the FDA has taken

**\*Take Action\***

[Tell FDA to finalize the cephalosporin rule to keep these critical drugs protected from overuse and misuse on industrial farms.](#)

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100,000 Supporters!**



**43,800  
and  
counting**

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**Join Moms for Antibiotic Awareness**

steps toward eliminating uses of cephalosporins on industrial farms. In 2008, the agency tried and failed to take similar action. That is why it is so important for the FDA to hear from the American people—those who rely on cephalosporins and other antibiotics to treat life-threatening infections.

**[If you have not done so already, please take a moment and tell the FDA to finalize the cephalosporin rule to keep these critical drugs protected from overuse and misuse on industrial farms.](#)**

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### **Ruby's Story: A Family Affected by Foodborne Illness**

Normally an active and happy baby, Ruby started to show signs of illness, including a fever, little interest in eating, lethargy, and constant diarrhea. After several visits to doctors' offices and no sign of improvement, urinalysis and blood tests were ordered. The next day, Ruby's mom answered a phone call and the nurse on the other end said, "Get Ruby to the hospital now! She has bacteria in her blood and needs antibiotics ... Take her there immediately!"

It turns out Ruby had acquired a strain of *Salmonella Heidelberg* from eating ground turkey. The strain was resistant to several antibiotics. Luckily, her doctor chose to treat her with an appropriate cephalosporin. Had the strain Ruby acquired been resistant to this medication, her story might be one of death rather than survival.

[Click here to read Ruby's full story as told from her mother's point of view.](#)

*Note: This story was shared on behalf of [STOP Foodborne Illness](#), one of our campaign collaborators.*

Share:



### **Our Supporters Continue to Grow**

We have recruited over 43,800 supporters

#### **Awareness**

[Moms for Antibiotic Awareness](#) is a group of mothers, fathers, grandparents, and others concerned about their family's health, specifically focused on ending the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in food animal production. [Become part of Moms for Antibiotic Awareness!](#)

#### **More...**

*Take Action:* Urge the FDA and the White House to [protect human health by keeping their commitments to address the overuse of antibiotics in food animal production.](#)

*Take Action:* Ask your members of Congress to [co-sponsor the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.](#)

[Email us](#) to share why you are concerned about the misuse of antibiotics in food animal production. Visit our [newsroom](#).

interested in ending the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in food animal production. More than 21,200 supporters like us on [Facebook](#) and another 20,500 follow us on [Twitter](#).

Thanks so much for your support and please continue to [spread the word](#) to your networks! If you are a blogger and need more information on the Pew Campaign on Human Health and Industrial Farming, please contact [Josh Wenderoff](#).

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## SaveAntibiotics.org

[The Pew Campaign on Human Health and Industrial Farming](#) is working to save antibiotics by phasing out the overuse of the drugs in food animal production. We work with public health and food industry leaders, veterinarians, agricultural interests, academics and citizens groups who share our objective of preserving the integrity of antibiotics as a means of protecting human and animal health.



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