

# Moms for Antibiotic Awareness



Below is your August 2012 newsletter from the Pew Campaign on Human Health and Industrial Farming. This edition features a video of Supermoms visiting Capitol Hill, a new report on misleading meat labels, action from senators, and more.

Thank you for your continued support,



[Laura Rogers](#)

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The Pew Charitable Trusts

## What's In Your Lunchbox?



Photo: Flickr User gregmote

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As August draws to a close and kids head back to school, many of us are faced with the daily task of packing a lunchbox. Unfortunately, because of confusing labeling practices by the meat industry, it is not as simple as you

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would think choosing turkey or bologna to make your child's sandwich.

[A Consumer Reports investigation](#) recently uncovered numerous confusing and unverified labels indicating that no antibiotics were used in meat and poultry production. In response to these criticisms, [the U.S. Department of Agriculture has said](#) (PDF) that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is committed to reviewing labels on meat packages, so that consumers can make thoughtful and informed meat product purchases.

Learn which labels are trustworthy, and which are meaningless, in a [helpful chart](#).

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## Senators Call for FDA Action



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Thirteen senators [sent a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) urging it to tighten its recommendations for reducing the use of antibiotics on industrial farms. Several members of the House of Representatives [also weighed in](#), pushing for strong FDA action on the issue.

In their letter, the senators expressed concern that the new guidance leaves a major loophole that allows food animal producers to continue feeding antibiotics to healthy animals to compensate for overcrowding and to promote growth—in effect sidestepping the intent of the reform.

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Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are not the only negative consequence of industrial animal agriculture. Manure pollution associated with concentrated animal feeding operations is a significant and growing threat to our water resources.

Please urge President Obama to take action.

[Take Action](#)

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## Support Legislation to Curb the Meat Industry's Overuse of Antibiotics



The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA, H.R. 965, S. 1211) would protect seven classes of antibiotics vitally important to human health by withdrawing their use from food animal production unless animals or herds are sick with disease or

## A Supermom Goes to Washington



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In our [new video](#) from the Supermoms Against Superbugs advocacy day in May, Supermom Everly Macario remembers the life of her son, Simon, who at 18 months old, contracted an antibiotic-resistant infection, MRSA (*methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*). None of the antibiotics doctors administered were able to cure him and he died. Learn about her trip to D.C. by watching our video.

With [support from people like you](#), who wrote to FDA last month on closing important loopholes in policy guidelines, there is little doubt that the government heard Everly's message and yours.

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### SaveAntibiotics.org

[The Pew Campaign on Human Health and Industrial Farming](#) is working to protect 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.

prove that their use does not harm human health.

Please contact your members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor PAMTA.

Take Action

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

Are you a blogger? We have put together a package of resources including photos, fact sheets, key facts, and other information just for you! [You can access it here.](#)

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