



WISCONSIN
FARMERS UNION



July 9, 2010

Honorable Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Regarding: Non-therapeutic antibiotics use in farming

Dear Rep. Baldwin,

The Wisconsin Farmers Union represents thousands of farms across the state of Wisconsin – and has been closely following the issue of antibiotic use in agriculture.

The Wisconsin Farmers Union policy on antibiotic use on farms is:

Most antibiotics in animal husbandry are used for the prevention of sickness and to accelerate growth. In order to ensure human health and consumer confidence, WFU supports policies that require independent monitoring of data on the use of antibiotics at food and feed companies, encourage USDA to increase testing for pathogens in processing plants, limit the use of antibiotics to the treatment of disease in livestock and not to compensate for inadequate animal husbandry, environment or genetics.

We believe that the use of antibiotics in agriculture should only be therapeutic. Human antibiotics are far too critical to human life to simply be used preventatively or to encourage growth in food animals. Other countries have proven that farming can be done without the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union encourages Congress to pass similar measures.

While we believe limited antibiotic use to treat sick animals is necessary and advisable, the consequences of antibiotics misuse is wholly unjustified. Please consider taking action on this issue – and accept our thanks for your service and work.

Sincerely,



Scott Schultz
Executive Director