10 Facts About Antibiotics, Resistance, and Food Animal Production

- **29.9 million**—pounds of antibiotics sold for use in food animal production in 2011.¹
- **7.7 million**—pounds of antibiotics sold to treat sick people in 2011.²
- **$26 billion**—the annual cost of antibiotic-resistant infections to U.S. health care.³
- **8 million**—extra days that patients stay in hospitals every year because of antibiotic-resistant infections.⁴
- **2 million**—people who are infected by resistant bacteria every year.⁵
- **23,000**—Americans who die from resistant infections every year.⁶
- **13**—new classes of antibiotics introduced between 1935 and 1968.⁷
- **2**—new classes of antibiotics introduced since 1968.⁸
- **450**—health, agriculture, environment, consumer, faith-based, labor, and other groups that support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, legislation that would eliminate the overuse of medically important antibiotics in healthy food animals.⁹
- **1945**—the year that Sir Alexander Fleming—who discovered penicillin—warned the world that overusing antibiotics, particularly at low doses, could lead to widespread resistance.¹⁰
The Pew Charitable Trusts is working to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics by eliminating the overuse and misuse of drugs in food animal production. We work with public health and food industry leaders, veterinarians, agricultural interests, academics, and citizen activists who share our objective of protecting human and animal health.

Endnotes
4 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
8 Ibid.

For further information, please visit:
saveantibiotics.org