

# KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING

The Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse

[www.KeepAntibioticsWorking.com](http://www.KeepAntibioticsWorking.com)

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Center for Science in the  
Public Interest

Environmental Defense

Food Animal Concerns  
Trust

Global Resource Action  
Center for the Environment

Humane Society of the  
United States

Institute for Agriculture  
and Trade Policy

National Catholic Rural Life  
Conference

Natural Resources Defense  
Council

Physicians for Social  
Responsibility

Safe Tables Our Priority  
(S.T.O.P.)

Sierra Club

Union of Concerned  
Scientists

Waterkeeper Alliance

February 6, 2006

Mr. John Tyson  
Chairman and CEO  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
2210 West Oaklawn Drive  
Springdale, AR 72762-6999

Re: Tyson's dramatic success in reducing antibiotic use in chicken production

Dear Mr. Tyson:

On behalf of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition, I write to congratulate you on Tyson's success in dramatically reducing the quantity of antibiotics that are used in chicken production, as reported by *USA Today* on January 24. These reductions help decrease the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria both on food and via the environment, thus protecting human and animal health by extending the effectiveness of antibiotics in combating bacterial disease.

Specifically, *USA Today* reports that Tyson Foods, Inc. has reduced the amount of antibiotics used in its chickens by 93% since 1997 and has entirely eliminated the routine use of all antibiotics as feed additives to promote growth. *USA Today* also reported that in 2004, less than one percent of Tyson's broilers (chickens raised for human consumption) received antibiotics. These substantial reductions in antibiotic use are important not only in themselves, but also because they demonstrate that chicken can be produced without the extensive use of antibiotics.

KAW hopes that your company will consider also reducing antibiotic use in its production of beef and pork. I would welcome the opportunity to explore such ideas with you.

Thank you for being an industry leader in helping to keep antibiotics working for those who need them.

Yours Truly,

Richard Wood  
Chair, Keep Antibiotics Working Steering Committee  
Executive Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust  
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