

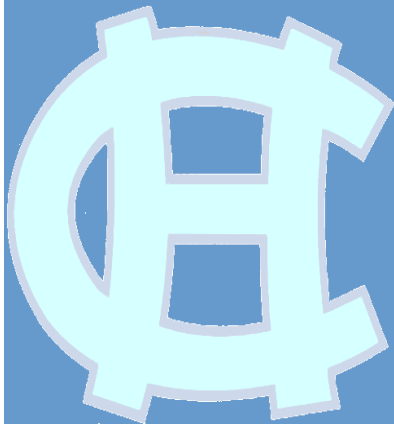


Agriculture Issues



Does an ounce of prevention really equal a pound of cure?

*June 8, 2016
State Convention*



Courses in which instruction occurred? Agriscience (64 students), Animal Science (60 students), Veterinary Science (25 students), Anatomy and Physiology (34 students), and Microbiology (24 students)

Why is this issue important now? The topic of antibiotic use in livestock has recently become extremely controversial and highly debated. In fact, 72% of people are concerned about the use of antimicrobials in food animals (Consumer Reports, 2012). More than ever, Americans are looking towards a healthier lifestyle for the future generations as well as themselves. According to Chase DeCoite, manager of Beef Quality Assurance at the National Cattleman's Beef Association, the American food source is the most secure in the world. Collectively speaking, we have moved from the worry of affording our food to the concern of morally producing our food. Additionally, companies are using antibiotic-free meat as a way to separate themselves from other companies (C. DeCoite, personal communication, January 25, 2016). Current studies have shown that 80% of all antibiotics sold in the United States are used for food animal production (Nowkowski, 2015). This fact has driven consumer concern and caused many to question whether this agricultural use of antibiotics is contributing to resistant infections. Each year in the United States, at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2016). There is an increasing amount of evidence suggesting that the sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture is contributing to these infections (National Resource Defense Council, 2015).

What is the nature of the issue? The nature of the antibiotic issue is complex and controversial and can be argued from economical and moral perspectives. Economically, farmers will have to produce 70 percent more food by the year 2050 to continue to feed the growing population (Hofstrand, 2012). Significant improvements will be imperative if the use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics continues to be reduced. Morally, consumers are concerned that livestock receive medicine to improve their growth rates and feel that animals should only be administered medicine when they are clinically ill (MacDonald, 2010). Farmers are concerned that without these antimicrobials, animal health will decline and animal welfare will suffer (K. Mobley, personal communication, March 2, 2016).

Who is involved in the issue? Simply put, everyone is involved in this complex issue; from the farmers and agriculture leaders who produce the food to the people and their families that consume it every day. Farmers are affected because consumer concerns are demanding that changes in their farming practices be made. One example of this is the Veterinary Feed Directive, or VFD. The VFD will require that producers have a prescription from a veterinarian for any medically important antibiotic that will be used in feed or water (Food and Drug Administration, 2015). This directive will cause farmers to develop and pursue a closer working relationship with their veterinarian, and will likely call for an increased number of large animal veterinarians (K. Simmons, personal communication, May 12, 2016). Consumers are affected because they could be ingesting the antibiotic resistant bacteria that is potentially contributing to super bugs, which are antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria (Lessing, 2015).

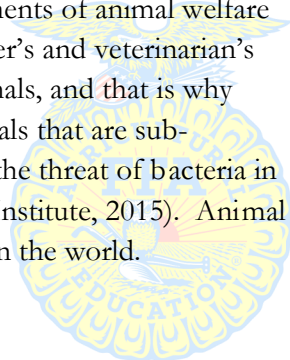
How can the issue be defined? The sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production is a combination of an animal issue, agriculture policy, and food safety issue. It is an animal issue because the judicious use of antimicrobials enhance growth and ensure health in animals for food production, allowing farmers to meet the demand and feed the world. Without the use of these antibiotics, animal health and welfare could be jeopardized (Key, McBride, 2014). It is an agriculture policy issue because the United States has taken active steps in response to the growing consumer concern regarding this issue. The federal government has begun to implement policies such as the Veterinary Feed Directive, which will become fully effective in January 2017. The use of antibiotics in agriculture is also closely monitored by several governmental agencies. The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System, or NARMS, is comprised of the FDA, CDC, and USDA, and continuously examines meat, humans, and farm animals for antibiotic resistance (Food and Drug Administration, 2015). It is a food safety issue because of the potential for these antibiotic-resistant bacteria to be passed from meat to consumer through consumption.

What is the historical background of the issue? Our modern understanding of antibiotic use began in 1928 when professor Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, which was later nicknamed “the wonder drug” because of its healing power. Fifteen years later Selman Waksman discovered the drug streptomycin in a clod of earth extracted from the throat of a sick chicken (The Seattle Times, 2012). Streptomycin was effective in eliminating diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, urinary infections, typhoid fever, and dysentery. Tetracycline was patented by Lloyd Conover in 1955, and in 1981 Amoxicillin tablets were introduced. These drugs have played a major role in human health, and Selman Waksman recognized the potential these medicines had to treat animal issues as well. He found that Streptomycin alone helped wipe out bovine tuberculosis, a disease that was widespread before. It also helped defeat mastitis, an infection in the udders of dairy cattle (Nowakowski, 2015). Antibiotics first began to be used in livestock herds because farmers noticed that the animals were not only healthier, but they also grew faster on the same amount of feed. Antibiotics were approved for use as animal feed additives in 1950 because their use increased growth rate, improved feed utilization, and reduced mortality and morbidity from infections.

What caused the issue? Since the 1940s, antibiotics have greatly reduced illness and death from infectious diseases. However, these drugs have been used so widely and for so long that the infectious organisms the antibiotics are designed to kill have adapted to them, making the drugs less effective (Lessing, 2015). Because antibiotics are vital to good health, resistance must be examined and problematic areas must be targeted so these drugs can continue to improve both human and animal health. While 80% of all antibiotics sold are indeed given to livestock, it is important to note that in 2013 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, stated that overuse of antibiotics in humans is the leading cause of resistance. Pound for pound, humans and their pets use ten times the amount of antibiotics than is used for food animal production (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013). The combination of these two factors is causing antibiotic resistance to grow, and the United States governmental agencies have called for a reduced use of antibiotics in agriculture. The US is not leading the bandwagon on this “antibiotic free” movement. The European Union banned the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in 2006, based on what they call the “precautionary principle” (Levy, 2014). Additionally, companies such as Chipotle, Panera Bread, Chick-Fil-A, and several others have begun to market antibiotic free meat, and so have their suppliers. Tyson Foods will end the use of antibiotics by 2017, Pilgrim’s Pride will raise 25 percent of its birds without antibiotics by 2018, and Perdue Farms currently raises nearly all of its chickens without antibiotics (Blackmore, 2016). All of these factors have caused this issue to come to the forefront of the mind of consumers.

What are the risks? When animals used for food production are given antibiotics either as growth promoters or to prevent illness, there can be risks. One of these risks include antibiotic resistance. When a group of animals is treated with a certain antibiotic for an extended time, the bacteria living in those animals can become resistant to that drug. According to microbiologist Dr. Glenn Morris, the problem for humans is that if a person ingests this resistant bacteria and becomes ill, he or she may develop a superbug and not respond to treatment (Wegener, 2015). Bacteria can also develop cross-resistance, which is when their resistance to one drug also makes them resistant to other, related drugs. A prime example of this is synercid, which is a drug of last resort for the treatment of vancomycin-resistant infections in humans. The effectiveness of synercid is threatened because of the use of virginiamycin as a growth promoter in chickens and pigs. Virginiamycin is chemically related to synercid, and bacteria resistant to the one drug also appear to be resistant to the other (Kummerer, 2003).

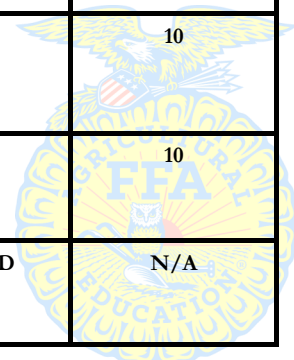
What are the benefits? The two main benefits that exist when administering sub-therapeutic antibiotics to livestock are animal welfare and food safety. Based on scientific evaluation, good welfare is present when animals are healthy, comfortable, well-nourished and safe. The absence of suffering due to stresses such as pain and fear are also main components of animal welfare (Landers, Cohen, Wittum, Larson, 2014). The use of antimicrobials in animals positively impacts a farmer’s and veterinarian’s ability to protect animal health and prevent suffering from disease. Food safety begins with healthy animals, and that is why careful antibiotic use on the farm to keep animals healthy is vitally important. Research shows that animals that are sub-clinically ill (not outwardly showing signs of illness but not as internally healthy as they can be) increase the threat of bacteria in the harvesting process, which places more pressure on all of the remaining safety steps (Animal Health Institute, 2015). Animal antibiotics help livestock and poultry producers to provide U.S. consumers with the safest food supply in the world.



FORUM SCHEDULE

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Date	Time	Location	Audience	Number	Page Number
April 11, 2016	4:30 pm	City Hall <i>Elizabethtown, KY</i>	Mayor Edna Berger, City Council	21	5
April 11, 2016	4:30 pm	Hardin County Farm Bureau Office <i>Elizabethtown, KY</i>	Hardin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors	25	5
April 15, 2016 <i>Face Time</i>	4:00 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	Chase DeCoite, Beef Quality Assurance National Cattleman's Beef Association	1	5
April 15, 2016 <i>Face Time</i>	5:00 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	Jake Osborn, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals	1	5
April 18, 2016	7:00 pm	Cecilia Ruitan Club <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	Cecilia Ruitan Community Club	35	6
April 20, 2016	4:30 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	Site Base Decision Council	18	6
April 22, 2016	8:00 am	Kentucky Farm Bureau <i>Louisville, KY</i>	Kentucky Farm Bureau Directors	7	6
April 22, 2016	10:00 am	Kentucky Cattleman's Association <i>Lexington, KY</i>	Kentucky Cattleman's Association Executive Committee	14	6
April 22, 2016	11:30 am	University of Kentucky <i>Lexington KY</i>	Dr. Gregg Rentfrow Department of Animal and Food Science	2	7
April 22, 2016	2:30 pm	Kentucky Cattleman's Association <i>Lexington, KY</i>	Kentucky Dairy Development Council	1	7
April 25, 2016	3:30 pm	Western Kentucky University <i>Bowling Green, KY</i>	Contemporary Agriculture Issues Class	32	8
May 3, 2016	1:30 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	Hardin County Schools Central Office Staff Superintendent, Nannette Johnston	8	8
May 5, 2016	4:00 pm	Hardin County Extension Office <i>Elizabethtown, KY</i>	Young Producers Council	3	8
May 6, 2016 <i>Skype</i>	4:00 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	John Brunnquell, CEO Egg Innovations	1	9
May 12, 2016 <i>Skype</i>	4:00 pm	Central Hardin High School <i>Cecilia, KY</i>	National Cattleman's Beef Association Kathy Simmons, Chief Veterinarian	2	9
May 13, 2016	10:00 am	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet <i>Frankfort, KY</i>	Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Committee	24	9
May 13, 2016	11:30 am	Kentucky Department of Agriculture <i>Frankfort, KY</i>	Kentucky State Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Stout	4	10
May 13, 2016	2:00 pm	Kentucky Department of Agriculture <i>Frankfort, KY</i>	Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles	6	10
October 4, 2016	7:30 pm	Hardin County Extension Office	Hardin County Cattleman's Association	TBD	N/A



COUNCIL
TONY BISHOP
MARTY E. FULKERSON
TERRY SHIPP
BOBBY TABB
RONALD B. THOMAS
CINDY D. WALKER



CITY OF ELIZABETHTOWN
EDNA B. BERGER, MAYOR

April 15, 2016

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P.O. Box 550
Elizabethtown, KY 42702
(270) 765-4121
Fax: (270) 737-5362
Web Site: www.elizabethtown.org

Central Hardin High School
Meagan Bishop, FFA
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724

Dear Ms. Bishop:

Please thank the Ag Issues Team for appearing before the City Council and me on Monday, April 11, 2016.

We found them to be very informed and prepared to debate the pros and cons of antibiotics in livestock feed.

We feel good about the future when we meet such talented and intelligent students. Thank you, Ms. Bishop for dedicating your time and talents to the students.

Sincerely,

Edna B. Berger
Mayor



*The team poses for a picture with
Elizabethtown Mayor Edna Berger.*



Hardin County Farm Bureau

Phone: (270) 737-7377

Fax: (270) 769-0483

2915 Ring Road • P.O. Box 1056 • Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702

April 15, 2016

Central Hardin High School
3040 Leitchfield Rd
Cecilia, KY 42724
Attn: Meagan Bishop

Dear Meagan Bishop,

The Hardin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to say Thank You to you and the CHHS FFA Ag Issues Team. It was a pleasure having you and the team as our special guest at the April 11, 2016 Board of directors meeting.

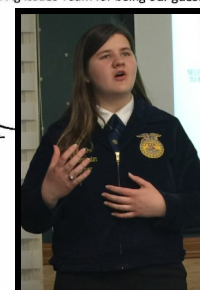
As always, the Ag Issues Team did an excellent job representing CHHS FFA Department. The presentation on "Sub-Therapeutic Antibiotics: Does an ounce of prevention really equal a pound of cure?" was very informative and pertains to the interest of our local farmers and community.

Again, thank you and the CHHS Ag Issues Team for being our guest and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Jagers II, President
Hardin County Farm Bureau

LBJ:cp



*Mattie and Mason discuss the arguments
against antibiotics to the Farm Bureau
directors.*

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

a contractor to the Beef Checkoff

April 26, 2016

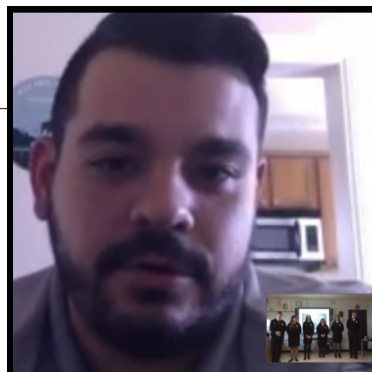
Dear Central Hardin FFA Issues Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your issues presentation on the topic of antibiotics in the livestock industry. During our FaceTime interview on the afternoon of April 14th, you clearly demonstrated that each of you has taken the time and effort to thoroughly educate yourselves on the issue at hand. You effectively communicated consumer concerns and hesitation as well as the basics of antibiotics used in the livestock industry. The team strongly advocated for the continued allowance and judicious use of antibiotics for the beef and livestock industries. I wish you all the best of luck as you continue learning and sharing about this issue.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cdecoite@beef.org or 303-850-3369.

Sincerely,

Chase DeCoite



*Chase DeCoite discusses the judicious use
of livestock antibiotics with the team.*

9110 E. Nichols Ave.
Suite 300
Centennial, CO 80112
303.694.0305
www.beef.org



Mrs. Bishop,

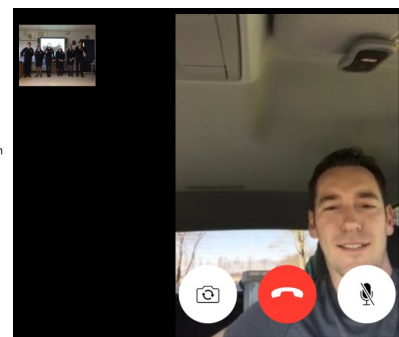
Thank you for allowing me to observe your agriculture issues topic on April 15th at 5:00pm. As you know, I am involved in animal agriculture and speak about this topic almost daily. I have heard many opinions for and against the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. It was great to hear what the students had prepared! I have to admit, that was the first time that I've heard an issue presented over FaceTime, but it was a great experience. It was evident that the group was well prepared and had good arguments for and against the use of antibiotics in farm animals. They used history and facts to back up both sides of the issue. Each student that participated took a role in the presentation and had their part memorized and it flowed very well. It was a little difficult to see certain parts of the slide show via Facetime, but the parts that I was able to view was very interesting and supported each side very well. Good luck at the state competition and thank you again for allowing me to listen in.

Jake Osborn

Territory Sales Manager – OH, KY, WV

Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

Jake.Osborn@Boehringer-Ingelheim.com



*Jake Osborn talks about the issue from
a pharmaceutical perspective.*

Cecilia Community Ruitan Club, Inc
392 West Main Street
Cecilia, KY 42724

May 12, 2016

Central Hardin FFA
Agriculture Issues Team
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724

Meagan,

On behalf of the Cecilia Community Ruitan Club, I want to express our thanks and appreciation for your Ag Issues team participation in our meeting, April 18, 2016. The students did an outstanding job making their presentation, and it was very informative for our members. We look forward to their return next year.



Brandon Thompson, Vice President
Cecilia Community Ruitan Club, Inc



The Ruritan audience asks pertinent questions after listening to the presentation.

Central Hardin High School



3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724
Telephone 270-737-6800
Fax 270-765-3889

Tim Isaacs
Principal



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Aaron Howell
Tessa Jagers
Myra Lewis
Chastity Yates

COUNSELORS

Chris Adams
Kim Cardin
Angie Davis
Bruce Evans

Meagan Bishop
AG Department
Central Hardin High School
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724

April 20, 2016

Dear Meagan Bishop:

Thank you so much for allowing your agriculture students to visit our April 20, 2016 CHHS SBDM Council meeting! Our council members enjoyed listening to your team of students debate the pros and cons of the agricultural issue of "*Sub-therapeutic Antibiotics: Does an ounce of prevention really equal a pound of cure?*"

Council found the students knowledgeable during their period of questioning after the debate and commented on their passion and conviction in the deliverance of their assignment.

In addition, the topic discussed was informational and relevant to our farmers and it's supporting Kentucky communities.

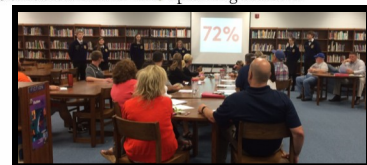
Central Hardin High School wishes success to these students in their upcoming contests!

Sincerely,



Tim Isaacs
Principal

TI/btc



Brain Excellence Site Base members listen attentively.
Equal Education and Employment Institution



Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

9201 Bumsen Parkway • P.O. Box 20700 • Louisville, KY 40250-0700
Telephone (502) 495-5000 • Fax (502) 495-5114 • kfb.org

MARK HANEY
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EDDIE MELTON
First Vice President
FRITZ GIESCKE
Second Vice President
DAVID S. BECK
Executive Vice President

April 25, 2016

Central Hardin FFA
Attn: Meagan Bishop
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 40013

Dear Ms. Bishop,

It was a pleasure having the Central Hardin FFA Agricultural Issues team present to our group on April 22, 2016 here at the Kentucky Farm Bureau office in Louisville, Kentucky. The team presented a very organized discussion concerning the pros and cons of the antibiotic use in livestock and the potential impact of antibiotic resistance in humans. Your team did an excellent job of addressing the issue.

For your reference, in addition to me, Mr. Todd Bright, Director, Communication Division; Mr. Tim Thornberry, Editor, KFB News; Mr. Dwight Greenwell, Director, Member Services; Mr. Jackson Tolle, Assistant Director, Agricultural Education, Women and Young Farmer Programs; Mr. Ed McQueen, Director, Market Information; and Ms. Fran McCall, Commodity Specialist, were your audience on April 22. Again, good job!

Sincerely,



Joe Cain
Director, Commodity Division



The team poses with Joe Cain.

"Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"



Central Hardin High School FFA
c/o Meagan Bishop
3040 Leitchfield Rd
Cecilia, KY 42724

April 22, 2016

Dear Meagan,

It was an honor and pleasure to have the Central Hardin FFA Ag Issues Team present to the fourteen member Kentucky Cattlemen's Association (KCA) Executive Committee and the KCA staff on April 22nd at 10:00am. We enjoyed hearing both sides of the argument, for and against, the use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics in livestock. The students did an outstanding job presenting and entertaining the committee's questions at the end.

Please feel free to visit us again. KCA sees the value of organizations like FFA and are always willing to support future agriculture leaders. Good luck at Regional, State and Nationals!

Sincerely,



Nikki Whitaker
Membership Coordinator
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association



Callie uses a puzzle piece to conclude the presentation.



Ryan Chapman and Dr. Rentfrow explain the process of stunning an animal and demonstrate the process by which meat is tested for antibiotic residue.



The team poses with Dr. Gregg Rentfrow following the tour and presentation.



To: Megan Bishop
Central Hardin FFA

From: Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, Ph.D.
Associate Extension Professor – Meat Science

Re: Letter of appreciation

My father is a retired Agriculture teacher/FFA Advisor from Central Illinois, therefore, I have grown up around FFA and agriculture. My earliest memories are of the FFA and attending the 50th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO. My freshman year in high school was the first time I officially got to wear the National Blue and Corn Gold corduroy jacket. I ended my FFA career as an Illinois state officer. And I honestly feel I would not be where I'm at in life without the leadership and communication skills I learned in FFA.

Now I feel that it is my turn to give back to the FFA by helping its members better themselves, much like it did for me several years ago. Hosting the National FFA Meats Judging CDE, teaching meats at FFA Chapters, and judging FFA projects are ways I give back. I greatly appreciate Central Hardin FFA for thinking of me when they needed to practice their presentation on antibiotic use in animals.

Antibiotic use in animal agriculture is a hot topic, creating a dichotomy between consumers and farmers. Neither really understanding the other's position. Therefore, the difficulty in accurately presenting both sides of argument is key to being successful. I felt the students did an excellent job in presenting both sides of the argument and their visual aid was spot on.

In addition, I was glad that your students were willing to stay and tour the meats lab and allow me to recruit for UK. Please pass on my encouragement and wish your team good luck with their future.

Sincerely and GoCATS,

Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, Ph.D.
Associate Extension Professor – Meat Science
205 W.P. Garrigus Building
University of Kentucky



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



Kentucky Dairy Development Council

Richard Sparrow
President
Charles Townsend, DVM
Vice-President

176 Pasadena Drive • Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: 859-516-1129 • Email: kydairy.org

Tom Hastings
Sec/Treasurer

Maury Cox
Executive Director

May 5, 2016

Meagan Bishop, FFA Advisor
Central Hardin High School
3040 Leitchfield Rd.
Cecilia, KY 42724

Dear Ms. Bishop,

I wanted to thank you for asking the Kentucky Dairy Development Council to participate in the Agriculture Issues forum on April 22, 2016 at 2:30 P.M. in Lexington, KY.

The topic your group chose, "the use of antibiotics in livestock," is one that is a very hot issue at present. The livestock industry is working diligently to reduce the amount of antibiotics used for non-treatment use. The dairy industry continues to work closely with veterinarians and the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Drug Administration to address this issue as well. The establishment of the Veterinary Feed Directive by the USDA/FDA is a big step in curtailing the use of antibiotics in livestock.

Your group was very impressive with knowledge of the topic and presented the information well in an unbiased manner. I expect to hear they do well in the upcoming competition.

Again, thank you for the invitation and for the job you have done with this outstanding group of young people and for the hard work they have done preparing for this competition.

Sincerely,

Maury Cox, Executive Director
KDDC

"Growing Kentucky's Dairy Industry"



Shelby and George discuss arguments for the use of antibiotics in livestock.



Maury Cox poses with the team following the presentation and discussion of antibiotic use in dairy cattle.





The team visited Western Kentucky University's Contemporary Agriculture Issues class to make their presentation and entertain pertinent questions.



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

May 6, 2016

Megan Bishop
Central Hardin High School

Ms. Bishop:

My Contemporary Agricultural Issues class and I very much enjoyed your Issues Team's presentation on April 25, 2016 at 3:30 CDT! I've had the opportunity to view 4 or 5 team presentations over the years and while I'm always impressed, I view this year's team as superior to any I've witnessed. They were quite versed in the topic, as evidenced by their excellent responses to several questions my students posed. They were also organized and concise in their delivery of the pertinent information and professional in their mannerisms. I commend you and your team on a great presentation and wish you success as you compete later this year.

On behalf of the AGRI 494-001 class,

Todd Willian

Todd Willian
Professor of Agriculture
todd.willian@wku.edu

The Spirit Makes the Master

Department of Agriculture | Western Kentucky University | 1906 College Heights Blvd. #41066 | Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066
phone: 270-745-3151 | fax: 270-745-5972 | email: agriculture@wku.edu | web: <http://wku.edu/agriculture>

Board of Education
Charlie Wise, Chair
Kay Sharon, Vice Chair
Suzy Broadwater
John Emary
Mike Kinney



HARDIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Nannette Johnston, Superintendent

Associate Superintendents
Mark Kopp, Instructional Services
Chris Reed, Human Resources
John Stith, Finance/Support Services
Eric Vowels, Student Services

May 5, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that I witnessed the Central Hardin High School FFA Agriculture Issues team present on May 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the Central Hardin High School library.

They presented the pros and cons of using antibiotics in beef, pork and poultry production. Several of our central office staff also attended the presentation. We all left CHHS that afternoon with lots of pride in our FFA Agriculture Issues team. They did a superior job in discussing both sides of the issue and answering some tough questions.

I have been the Hardin County Schools Superintendent for ten years and feel that the presentation I witnessed at Central Hardin High School on Tuesday, May 3 was one of the best I have seen.

I also affirm the efforts of the CHHS FFA advisors and their dedication in leading these students down a path to success. I know the team will do very well in state and national competition. I look forward to seeing all of the hardware they bring home.

Respectfully,

Nannette Johnston

Nannette Johnston
Superintendent

Hardin County Board of Education members traveled to Central Hardin to observe the presentation.



5-15-16

To Central Hardin FFA Ag Issues Team,

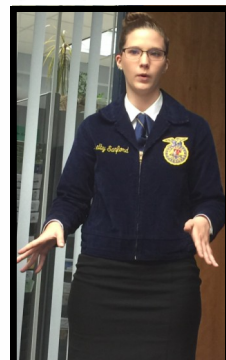
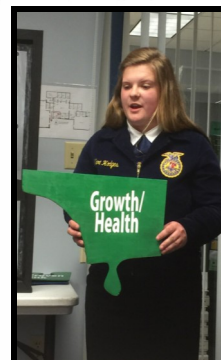
Thank you for coming to the Young Producer Council meeting on the afternoon of May 5th and making your presentation on antibiotic use in animal agriculture. Our group found your topic to be very timely and important to the cattle industry in Kentucky. It was clear that you all had done your research and educated yourselves with both sides of the issue.

Again, I thank you for presenting to our group. Good luck with your competition!

Thank You,

Dan Miller

Dan Miller
YPC Advisor



Keri and Shelby explain how antimicrobials enhance growth and ensure health in food animals.

Egg Innovations, L.L.C.
4811 W. 100 N.
Warsaw, IN 46580
Tel: (574) 267-7545 Fax: (574) 267-7305
Internet: www.egginnovations.com



May 15, 2016

Dear Meagan and Team,

Please let this letter serve as a thank you for our meeting on May 6th at 4:00pm via Skype conference.

I believe the team is well-rehearsed and well-trained. They presented both sides of the issue in a balanced way and effectively brought out the major points on each side of the issue.

The issue of using sub-therapeutic antibiotics I thought was a well chosen topic and very timely, especially considering all the activity occurring in the broiler industry at this time.

Regards,

John Brunnquell

John Brunnquell, President
Egg Innovations
jbrunnquell@egginnovations.com
414.704.1344



John Brunnquell discusses the impact of sub-therapeutic antibiotics to the poultry industry.



May 16, 2016

Ms. Meagan Bishop
Advisor, Central Hardin FFA
Central Hardin High School
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724

Dear Ms. Bishop:

On May 12, 2016 at 4:00 pm, Shawna Newsome, our associate director of communications, and I had the pleasure to view, through Skype, the presentation by the Central Hardin High School FFA students concerning the timely topic of the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. We enjoyed the presentation and believed that the students provided relevant and informed opinions on both sides of the issue. The use of the puzzle pieces that formed a question mark at the end of the presentation reinforced that this issue is indeed complex and multifaceted. The delivery by the students was well-coordinated and strong. We were also impressed by the ability of the students to respond to multiple questions on the subject of antibiotic use in livestock, as a few of the questions were rather technical in nature.

At the completion of the presentation, we appreciated the opportunity to engage in a discussion with the students on the issue of antimicrobial drug use in animal agriculture. We believe that their presentation will be a strong contender in the upcoming Agriculture Issues Contest. Again, thank you for the chance to meet the students and to view their presentation. Best of luck in the competition!

Kind regards,

Kathy Simmons

Kathy Simmons, DVM
Chief Veterinarian, National Cattlemen's Beef Association



Kathy and Shawna listen to the team.

Government Affairs • 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20004 • 202.347.0228 • www.BeefUSA.org



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

404 Ann Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone (502) 564-4627
Fax (502) 564-8990
agpolicy.ky.gov

Warren Beeler
Executive Director

May 13, 2016

Central Hardin FFA Ag Issues Team

Dear Central Hardin FFA Ag Issues Team Members,

We appreciate your recent presentation to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) Board on Friday May 13, 2016 at 10 a.m.

You all did an outstanding job discussing the controversial topic of antibiotic usage in livestock.

Both sides presented the impacts, both negative and positive, of antibiotic usage and how these relate to herd and human health.

The tone of the presentation and the delivery of your topic were appropriate, given the audience to which you presented.

Each of you did an excellent job responding to the questions posed by our board members.

We enjoy your annual presentation and encourage you to come back next year.

Good luck with the competition!

Sincerely,

Bill McCloskey

Bill McCloskey
Deputy Executive Director
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

Beth Herbert

Beth Herbert
Loan Program Manager
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy
Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation



The team entertains pertinent questions from the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Committee in Frankfort.





Kentucky State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout listens closely as the "Antibiotic Free" issue is discussed by the team.



Ryan Quarles
Commissioner
105 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
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Fax: (502) 573-0046



Robert C. Stout, DVM
State Veterinarian
109 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 782-5901
Fax: (502) 573-1020

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
A Consumer Protection and Service Agency

May 16, 2016

Ms. Meagan Bishop
Central Hardin High School FFA
3040 Leitchfield Rd.
Cecilia, KY 42724

Dear Ms. Bishop:

It was a pleasure to have you and the Central Hardin High School FFA Ag Issue Team visit the Office of the State Veterinarian Friday, May 13, 2016 at 11:30am. Their presentation was most impressive! They presented a difficult topic with demonstrated research and knowledge.

Best wishes on your upcoming state competition; I'm confident they will do well!

Sincerely,

Robert C. Stout, DVM
State Veterinarian/Executive Director

RCS/vw

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Ryan F. Quarles
Commissioner



Corporate Drive Complex
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-0282

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

May 16, 2016

Ms. Meagan Bishop
Central Hardin High School
3040 Leitchfield Road
Cecilia, KY 42724

Dear Ms. Bishop:

Please know how much I enjoyed meeting and visiting with you and the Agriculture Issues team members on Friday, May 13, 2016, at 2:00p ET in my office.

Best of luck to the Central Hardin FFA Agriculture Issues team as you prepare for upcoming competitions. I enjoyed their presentation and commend their passion and knowledge on the important issue of livestock antibiotics.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Kentucky's future in educating our children. My door is always open, and I hope you won't hesitate to contact me or my staff if we may be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

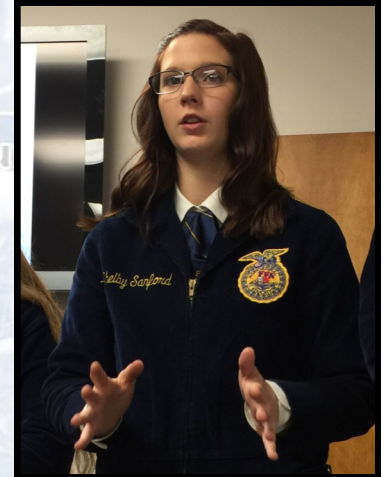
Ryan F. Quarles
Commissioner of Agriculture

Good Luck!!!



EOE M/F/D/V

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The team poses with Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles and members of his staff following the presentation.



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