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Media contact: Zach Goldberg at 202-478-6171, zgoldberg@mrss.com

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AGAIN PASSES THE BUCK ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING CALLS OUT FDA DECISION TO ALLOW ANTIBIOTIC DRUG USE IN LIVESTOCK FEED

Washington, DC - The Keep Antibiotics Working coalition today released the following statement in strong disapproval of today's announcement by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it is withdrawing longstanding proposals to remove approvals for two antibiotics, penicillins and tetracyclines, used in livestock feed. The FDA initially proposed the withdrawals in 1977 because the scientific evidence at that time indicated that feeding these antibiotics to animals for purposes other than disease treatment created an unacceptable risk to the public.

"Today's decision is just the latest evidence that the Obama Administration fails to take seriously the risk of resistant infections that occur due to the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture," said Steven Roach, Public Health Program Director at Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) and a member of Keep Antibiotics Working.

"Since the FDA initially proposed the withdrawals in 1977, the data connecting antibiotic resistance with overuse in animals has only gotten stronger. Yet the FDA refuses to fulfill its mandate to protect the public health and withdraw drugs that have been shown to be unsafe. As long as the Administration fails to act and continues to fall back on an ineffective

voluntary approach, Keep Antibiotics Working will press the FDA to protect the public health through more meaningful measures."

The FDA action came a week after the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the third recall this year of meat contaminated with antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* that had caused outbreaks of human illness. Ground beef is the product implicated in the latest outbreak and it follows two earlier outbreaks with ground turkey this year. *Salmonella* detected in all three outbreaks is resistant to penicillin. The FDA originally started the withdrawal process for the feed additive use of penicillin to reduce the risk that people would contract penicillin resistant *Salmonella*. Now, decades later, FDA has closed the door on withdrawing the feed additive uses of these important drugs.

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Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than 11 million supporters.