## **Guest Editorial**

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In addition, manufacturers must register each mill each year, follow good manufacturing practices as prescribed in regulations, maintain specific records in drug usage, and open mill and appropriate records to inspection by state and federal inspectors. Present procedures also permit government officials to check feed at the farm level to follow animals and their products (milk, meat, and eggs) through marketing channels to be sure consumers are fully protected. The livestock and poultry owners must observe and follow withdrawal requirement, if required. before animals are marketed and provide certification to the purchaser.

Many have observed the benefits of feed use of antibiotics and other additives at low levels in improving livestock per-

formance and reducing the cost of producing milk, meat, and eggs for an expanding population. Combinations of antibiotics in feed have aided livestock and poultry in clearing up intestinal infections, stimulating appetite, improving vigor and well-being of animals, especially during stress of moving, adverse weather or other conditions that lower natural vigor. Runts in pigs fed pig starting feeds containing antibiotics often reach market weights as much as two weeks ahead of heavier litter mates. Poultry flocks with failing appetites have been stimulated to perk up in appetite, consume more feed, thus providing greater vigor for growth or performance. Most veal calves are provided some antibiotics and other compounds shortly after birth to reduce or prevent calf scours and help get the animal off to a good start.

These improvements from feed use of antibiotics will help reduce the cost of producing food of animal origin.

There is no evidence at present that feed additives have created any hazards to animals or man, or to man who use and handle these feeds, nor to consumers of food of animal origin that were fed these feeds. These technological advances have helped U.S. poultry and livestock producers to produce food of higher quality at lower cost and safer than in any country in the world or in any period in history. The safeguards now in use make our food supply safe, nutritious and economical.

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