

WASHINGTON – House Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter today said that a [new report](#) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) documents the extensive use of antibiotics in food animal production. Slaughter said also that the new data makes the case for passage of her legislation, HR 1549, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, which would for the first time restrict farm livestock from eating a steady diet of antibiotic medicines as part of their daily food intake.

“This report illustrates the overuse of antibiotics in food animal production and makes a strong case for some common-sense limits on antibiotic use,” Slaughter said. “We are putting millions of pounds of antibiotics into the food supply unnecessarily every year. This cannot continue and it’s my hope that these new data from the FDA will encourage even more members of Congress to join me next year when I reintroduce this legislation. Moreover, the FDA must move fast to issue strong regulations on antibiotic usage in agriculture.”

Moreover, these new data come on the heels of recent studies on superbugs, documenting that low-dosage usage of antibiotics causes a dramatic increase in genetic mutation. These studies, by Boston University faculty Michael Kohanski, Mark DePristo, and James Collins, raise serious concerns about the agricultural practice of using low-dosage antibiotics in order to stimulate growth promotion.

Representative Louise M. Slaughter is the lead sponsor of H.R. 1549, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.

For the first time, the FDA released data on antimicrobials used in the agricultural sector in a report entitled, *2009 Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Production Animals*. [Click here](#) to read the original report.

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