

How we raise animals affects the health of our food.

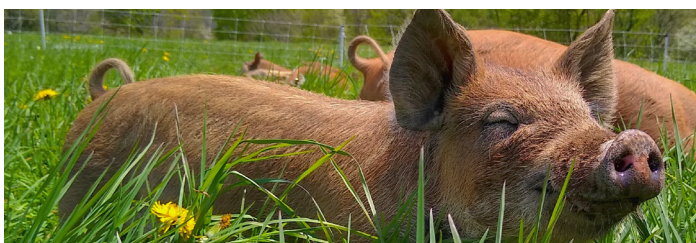
Healthy animals are essential for safe and healthy food, but most animals in the United States are raised in unhealthy conditions on factory farms. To save money, farms and feedlots take baby pigs and calves away from their mothers before they are ready for solid food and ship them off to be fattened up for slaughter. On factory farms and feedlots, animals are crowded together in huge pens where they are in constant contact with their own waste, leading to the spread of disease. Farms then use antibiotics and other feed additives to control the problems caused by these unhealthy conditions. This leads to the spread of superbugs and dangerous residues in meat.



Stopping antibiotic overuse in agriculture

About two-thirds of medically important antibiotics sold in the United States each year are administered not to sick people but to animals raised for meat. This overuse on factory farms drives the spread of antibiotic-resistant superbugs that contaminate our food, air, and water and cause difficult-to-treat illness in both people and animals. The spread of superbugs makes common medical procedures such as dialysis, joint-replacement surgery, and Cesarean sections much more risky.

It does not need to be this way. A primary reason animals get antibiotics is to prevent problems caused by unhealthy practices on farms, such as weaning baby pigs too early while crowding them in dirty buildings over pits of their own manure. If farms kept babies and mothers together for longer and provided healthier housing, most of this antibiotic use would be unnecessary. FACT fights antibiotic overuse to make sure antibiotics work when needed—for sick people and animals alike.



Banning dangerous veterinary drugs

To raise animals more cheaply and prevent problems caused by unhealthy conditions, factory farms feed chemical additives to their animals. These additives can harm animals by causing them to grow too fast, and they can contaminate food with dangerous residues. FACT works to convince companies to stop using them and for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prohibit their use. For example, carbadox, a drug given to more than half of the 70 million pigs raised in the United States, is a known carcinogen. In 2016, the FDA proposed banning the additive but was challenged by the drugmaker and the pig industry. FACT is working to get the FDA to go through with the proposed ban to protect consumers and farm workers from exposure to this dangerous drug.

Our impact

FACT's advocacy efforts have led to the following achievements:

- The FDA began requiring egg farms to **monitor and control** the foodborne pathogen *Salmonella enterica*.
- The FDA instituted rules that **eliminate the use of** medically important antibiotics for growth promotion, leading to a steep drop in sales of antibiotics for use in food animals.
- A **ban** on the use of toxic, arsenic-containing drugs in food animals was introduced.
- The FDA started **collecting and reporting** the amount of antibiotics sold for use in food animals.