

## ISSUES THAT MATTER

### Activists Sue FDA Over Antibiotics in Livestock

A coalition of public health advocacy groups and online activists have filed a lawsuit against the FDA and its Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), challenging the decision to keep important antibiotics in animal agriculture.

The lawsuit, filed Jan. 24 by the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Food Animal Concerns Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Public Citizen, claims FDA violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it denied a 2016 petition to ban the use of medically important antibiotics for disease prevention in livestock and poultry.

The FDA denied the petition in 2021, despite, according to the lawsuit, generally agreeing that the overuse of antibiotics in food-producing animals can contribute to the development of



PHOTO: NATIONAL PORK BOARD

antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The lawsuit says the agency did not address the petition's core concern that the use of antibiotics for disease prevention in livestock and poultry poses a significant threat to human health.

Domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals decreased by less than 1% between 2020 and 2021. Since the significant decrease in sales volume in 2017, annual sales of medically important antimicrobials have remained at reduced levels, according to FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine's (CVM) 2021

Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food Animals. Compared to 2015 (peak year of sales), 2021 sales decreased 38%. —Jennifer Shike

# PARAMOUNT

## Elevate to a more valuable female.

For over a decade, Red Angus females have commanded more at auction than all other breeds, including Angus. According to Superior Livestock data, Red Angus heifers brought nearly \$17/cwt more — that equates to a \$92/head premium on a weaned replacement female.

To learn more about  
industry-leading  
stayability, visit  
[RedAngus.org](http://RedAngus.org)

**REB ANGUS**  
RANCH TESTED. RANCHER TRUSTED.

