

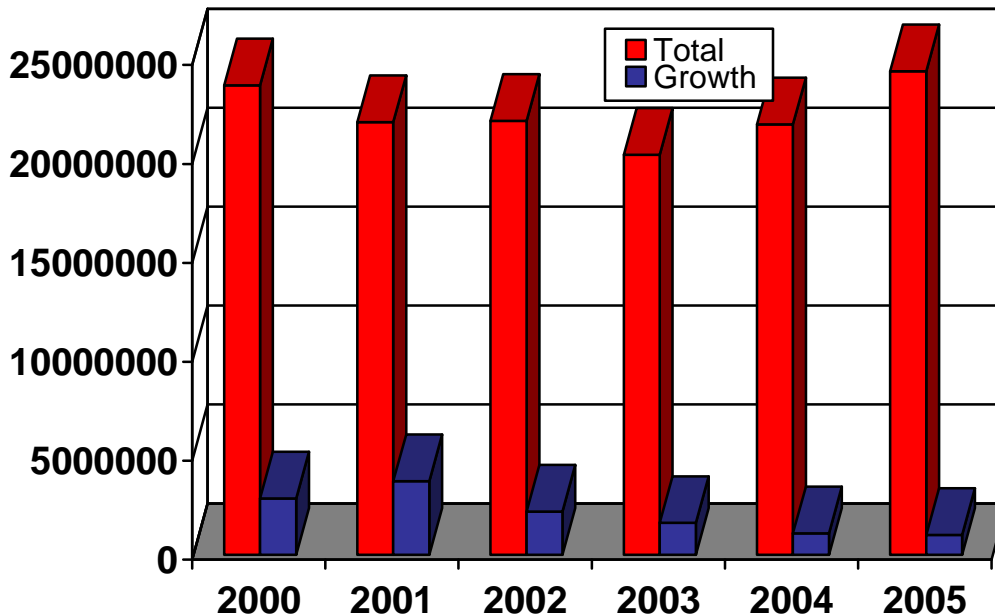
## Antibiotic Use in Animal Agriculture

*Survey shows declining use of antibiotics in animals; most used to treat, control and prevent disease*

As questions have been raised about the possible contribution of animal use of antibiotics to the problem of antibiotic resistance, more attention has focused on the amount of antibiotics used in both human and veterinary medicine. In order to provide a factual basis for addressing these issues, the Animal Health Institute annually surveys its members on the amount of antibiotics sold for use in animals.

According to the most recent survey, the production of antibiotics for use in animals rose in 2005 to meet growing animal health demands. In 2005, 24.4 million pounds of antibiotics were sold for use in farm and companion animals, an increase from 21.7 million pounds sold in 2004. These products are used to treat the estimated 8 billion chickens, 264 million turkeys, 103 million pigs, 97 million cattle, 74 million dogs and 90 millions cats in the United States. Only two classes of compounds accounted for the increase: Ionophores, which are compounds not used in human medicine, and tetracyclines, which are undergoing a review by the Food and Drug Administration under Guidance 152, the qualitative risk assessment procedure to evaluate the human health risk of using a particular antibiotic. As a part of this assessment, FDA can limit the use of an antibiotic if it believes human health is jeopardized.

**Antibiotics Produced for Use in Animals, U.S., 2000-2005**



More than 95 percent of the antibiotics used for animals are devoted to treating animals for disease conditions. Contrary to claims that most antibiotics are “fed to healthy animals,” AHI data prove this is not the case. In fact, antibiotics used to maintain the health of animals and enhance growth dropped to 4.5 percent, down from 5.4 percent the previous year, meaning the total amount of pounds sold for this purpose declined.

While some groups would like to correlate the level of antibiotic use in animals with the threat of this use contributing to human resistance trends, there is no scientific basis for doing so. In fact, there is consensus that the most difficult and most widespread antibiotic resistant bacteria problems faced in human medicine can be attributed to human, not animal, use of antibiotics. A survey of human medical experts estimated that animal use contributes less than 5 percent of the total burden of antibiotic resistant problems in human medicine (Bywater and Casewell, Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, 2000).

