Antibiotics, Hormones, & **CAFOs**

70%
of antibiotics in the U.S. are sold for use in livestock[1]

CAFOs crowd a massive amount of animals, feed, and waste in close proximity, which creates a **breeding ground for bacteria.** It's common practice for factory farm operators to administer low-dose antibiotics to all animals–sick or healthy–to prevent disease outbreaks.

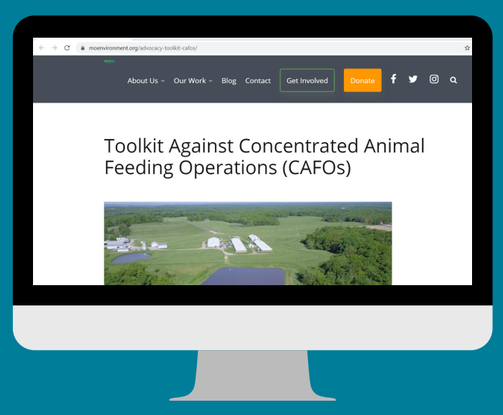
However, bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics over time. The overuse of antibiotics in CAFOs contributes to **antibiotic resistant bacterial strains** that hinder treatment of bacterial illness in human populations. Humans can be infected by antibiotic resistance bacteria through consuming contaminated meat, direct contact with animals, and exposure to animal manure released into the environment from CAFOs.[2]

Livestock animals are sometimes given supplemental hormones to stimulate growth and weight gain. Humans may be exposed to these hormones by consuming animal products. Research suggests consuming hormone residues in animal products may disrupt the human endocrine system and contribute to hormone-related chronic diseases.[3]

What can you do?

Join MCE's **CAFO Action Network**

Visit MCE's **CAFO Toolkit** to learn how to take action against CAFOs



Find these resources at ***moenvironment.org***

Missouri Coalition for the Environment
EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ACTION SINCE 1969

Contact Melissa Vatterott at mvatterott@moenviron.org for more information.

1. FDA. https://www.fda.gov/media/102160/download
2. CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/food.html
3. American Public Health Association. www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/09/13/42/opposition-to-the-use-of-hormone-growth-promoters-in-beef-and-dairy-cattle-production