Lance Price - Factory Farms, Antibiotics and Superbugs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwHapgrF99A

In 2014, Lance Price took the TEDxManhattan stage to discuss antibiotic resistance. Since the birth of factory farms, unbeknownst to most Americans, antibiotic use in the United States has been used primarily for animal production, not for human health. In 2011, 7.7 million pounds of antibiotics were sold to treat sick people in the U.S. compared to 29.9 million pounds of antibiotics that were sold for food animal production.

In his talk, Dr. Price declares that antibiotics are not and should not be used as production tools and dreams of a world where we cease to introduce antibiotics into a broken system; a world where we let farmers be farmers, let animals be animals and save antibiotics for future generations. See Lance’s full talk at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwHapgrF99A.

Where to Follow

The Antibiotic Resistance Action Center website and social media accounts are forthcoming - stay tuned!

https://www.facebook.com/CitizensAgainstSuperbugs

Dr. Lance Price is a public health researcher who examines the interface between science and policy to address the growing crisis of antibiotic resistance. Discover Magazine selected Lance’s work as one of the top 100 science stories of 2012. See Lance’s full bio here.

Discussion Questions

- Why are antibiotics used in food and animals?
- How does this impact human health?
- What can policymakers do to encourage and/or enforce practices that reduce the inappropriate and unnecessary use of antibiotics?
- What can consumers do to force change and help fight the growing threat of antibiotic resistance?
• How can we raise awareness and educate those who aren’t aware of antibiotic resistance?

**Things You Can Do**

1. Go to [drugsmakebugs.org](http://drugsmakebugs.org) to sign the most recent petitions and see other ways you can take action.

2. Use regular soap rather than antibacterial soap.

3. Encourage Members of Congress to support legislation aimed at ending antibiotic overuse and misuse in food animal production and to support funding to fight superbugs.

4. Get your city to pass a resolution calling for an end to the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms.

5. If you work in a hospital, develop an antibiotics resolution for your health care facility.


7. Eat without antibiotics! When dining out, ask for meat and poultry that was raised without antibiotics.

8. Next time you buy meat or poultry, use the [Eat Well Guide](http://eatwellguide.org) to find antibiotic free products. Look for the USDA Organic and and “No Antibiotics Administered” labels.

9. Go to [Change Food’s Tumblr site](http://changefood.tumblr.com) to share and give us feedback on your experiences.
Campaigns

- Take action and Ask Congress to Support Funding to Fight Superbugs.
- Urge our nation’s top officials to stop the overuse of antibiotics and Save Our Antibiotics!
- Tell Congress: Save Antibiotics for Medicine, Not Factory Farms. Directly messages your Congressmen and encourage them to pass legislation to end the overuse of antibiotics on CAFOs.

*Please note: this section is updated periodically. At any given time, some of the campaigns may be out of date.

Organizations and Companies

- Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
  APUA aims to preserve the power of antibiotics and increase access to needed drugs through raising public awareness, improving policy and strengthening research and treatment.

- The Antibiotic Resistance Action Center at The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health
  Website coming soon - stay tuned!

- American Academy of Pediatrics
  AAP seeks to attain optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all children.
• **Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health**
  The center works to research, develop and communicate information about the intersection between diet, food production and environmental and human health to ensure a safe and sustainable future for all.

• **Center for Science in the Public Interest**
  CSPI seeks to educate the public and advocate for policies consistent with scientific research. With almost 2 million readers, CSPI’s Nutrition Action Healthletter is the largest circulation health and nutrition newsletter in North America. Sign up [here](#).

• **Consumers Union**
  The policy and action division of Consumer Reports, Consumers Union works with activists to create consumer-friendly policies. Visit [here](#) to see how you can take action.

• **Environmental Working Group**
  EWG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to provide research and education to drive consumer choice and civic action. Take action [here](#).

• **Food and Water Watch**
  A non-profit organization that advocates for policies that secure healthy, safe, accessible and affordable water for all. They operate in the United States as well and Latin America and the European Union, where they are known as Food & Water Europe.

• **Food Animal Concerns Trust**
  Founded in 1982, FACT is a nonprofit that promotes healthy farming practices.

• **Health Care Without Harm**
  An international coalition of hospitals and health care systems working to implement
ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices worldwide.

● **Healthy Food Action**
Healthy Food Action creates a forum for healthcare professionals to learn and also speak out about public policy debates relating to food and farming.

● **Humane Society of the United States**
The nation’s largest animal protection and advocacy organization, the Humane Society seeks to combat animal cruelty.

● **Infectious Diseases Society of America**
IDSA has a wealth of information on antimicrobial resistance and is working to combat it.

● **Keep Antibiotics Working**
KAW’s coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane and other advocacy groups is working to eliminate antibiotic resistance so that doctors can continue to rely on antibiotics.

● **March of Dimes**
March of Dimes provides health resources for mothers and mothers-to-be.

● **Natural Resources Defense Council**
With 2+ million members and online activists, approximately 500 lawyers, scientists and other professions, the NRDC is an environmental action group that works to safeguard the Earth.

● **The Pew Charitable Trusts**
Pew’s Antibiotic Resistance Project supports policies that are creating new antibiotics, ensuring that antibiotics are not over-prescribed to humans or overused in animals.
raised for consumption.

- **STOP Foodborne Illness**
  STOP advocates for public policies and builds public awareness in an effort to prevent illness and death from foodborne illnesses.

- **Trust for America’s Health**
  TFAH emphasizes prevention, protection and communities in its fight to make disease prevention a national priority.

- **Waterkeeper Alliance**
  The Alliance works to fight for clean water and clean farms, ensuring that our resources stay unpolluted.

- There are also federal resources on antibiotic resistance.
  - The [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) has many resources and collaborates with various organizations about antimicrobial resistance.
  - The [FDA](https://www.fda.gov) and [USDA](https://www.usda.gov) are integral players in the [White House National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria](https://www.whitehouse.gov) (CARB).

**Publications**

- **Books**
    The authors investigate the evolution of pathogenic bacteria and explore the path to resistance.
Blaser discusses the detrimental consequences of overusing antibiotics.

McKenna seeks to empower readers with all resources and knowledge required to protect themselves from superbugs.

Salyers and White report on how bacterial resistance poses a threat to antibiotic effectiveness.

Reports/Studies

This CDC report presents the burdens and threats that antibiotic-resistant germs pose on human health.

Produced in collaboration with Member States, this report discusses how antibiotic resistance is reaching alarming levels.

This NRDC report provides evidence that the overuse of antibiotics in food and animal production is a major source of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The official transcript of Lance Price addressing the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology on the overuse of antibiotics in animal production.
Conferences and Meetings

- **International Conference on the Evolution and Transfer of Antibiotic Resistance (ICETAR)** - June 24-26, 2015 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands
  Experts in the field will gather in Amsterdam at this international conference to explore the evolution of antibiotic resistance and discuss the growing threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

- **6th Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals and the Environment** - June 29-July 1, 2015 - France
  This symposium seeks to explore the social and environmental impact of the use of antimicrobial agents in livestock production.

- **World Congress on Antibiotics** - September 14-16, 2015 - Las Vegas, NV
  Researchers will unite in Las Vegas to discuss new ideas about antibiotics and address the conference’s theme: the urgency of new antibiotics and control of antibiotic resistance.

- **Interscience Conference of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC)** - September 17-21, 2015 - San Diego, CA
  With a focus on antibiotic resistance, clinical microbiologists, infectious disease physicians, researchers and pharmacists will gather in San Diego to discuss major advances in drug development and infectious disease research.

*Please note: This section is only updated periodically, so some conferences might have already occurred.*

Related Videos/Films
Antibiotics were once seen as super drugs. They rapidly disarmed pneumonia and many other previously fatal bacterial conditions, and had relatively few side effects. But the bacteria weren’t ready to surrender yet.

Antimicrobial Access and Effectiveness, Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics, 2011.
With over 64 international chapters, the APUA has been the leading global non-governmental organization fighting to preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobial drugs.

Attack of the Super Bugs, SciShow, 2014
SciShow breaks down everything you need to know about super bugs.

Part of the The Andelot Series on Current Science Controversies, this forum examines the threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the steps we must take to combat them.

Director's Briefing: Serious Health Threat of Antibiotic-Resistance Germs, CDC, 2013.
In this Director's Briefing, CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden discusses the threat of antibiotic resistance and gives four ways we can protect antibiotics.

Drugs Make Bugs, NRDC, 2014.
This NRDC animated short film follows a day in the life of a pig being raised on a CAFO where antibiotics are overused.

Division Leader of the Biosciences and Biotechnology Division at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Paul Jackson shares a brief history of antibiotics and explores the medical and public policies that have led to increased antibiotic resistance.

- **Lance B. Price, PhD**  *[Antibiotics & Food Animal Production 101](https://example.com)*, Applegate, 2011
  Lance answers a few questions about the evolution of antibiotics.

- **The Meatrix**, 2015.
  Do you really want to know the truth about factory farming. Welcome to The Meatrix.

  This documentary investigates the discovery and evolution of antibiotics but more importantly what we can do to save them.

  Dr. Klose, founder and director of the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, takes the TEDxSanAntonio stage to discuss the rise of the superbugs and urges the audience to eat antibiotic free meat.

  NRDC Growing Green award recipient, Russ Kremer, aka the Pope of Pork, is a fifth-generation Missouri pork producer and a leader in the antibiotic-free livestock movement. He leads the Ozark Mountain Pork Cooperative which empowers producers to raise pigs without antibiotics.

- **Stop the Superbugs**, NRDC, 2013.
  Despite the fact that antibiotics are meant to be used sparingly, 80% are used on factory farm animals which inevitably leads to antibiotic resistant super bugs.
  This animation takes a look inside our cells to see what is happening on a biological level.

  In the Science Times section, Tavernise provides background on her article about Lance and his research. Read the full article [here](#).

  This TED-Ed animation explores the nasty spread of super bacteria and the challenges they present for the future of medicine.

**Additional information**

- **Antibiotics**, Grace Communications Foundation.
  Grace Communications’ Sustainable Table profile on antibiotics provides information on what antibiotics and antibiotic resistant bacteria are as well as sustainable alternatives to using them in agriculture.

  This NRDC articles provides background on antibiotic usage in the United States and ways to avoid antibiotic treated meat.

- **Antimicrobial Resistance Fact Sheet**, WHO.
  Learn some key facts and find answers to FAQs about antimicrobial resistance.

- **Combating Antibiotic Resistance**, FDA
  This FDA post shares what the FDA is doing to combat antibiotic resistance.

- **FDA’s Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance**, USDA.
  A Q&A with the FDA on its strategy on antimicrobial resistance including what drugs...
they're focusing on as well as the important role of veterinarians and animal producers.

- **McDonald's Is Finally Phasing Out Antibiotics in Chicken. Thank Chipotle**, Slate, 2015.
  A step in the right direction! McDonald’s joins companies like Panera and Chick-Fil-A by finally phasing out antibiotics in its chicken.

- **National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System**, FDA.
  Established in 1996, NARMS is a collaborative project of local and public health departments, the FDA, the CDC and the USDA to protect and promote public health about bacterial resistance.

- **Phasing out Certain Antibiotics Use in Farm Animals**, FDA, 2015.
  The FDA is implementing a voluntary plan with industry to phase out the use of certain antibiotics in food production. Learn more here.

  Check out Grace’s pre-TEDxManhattan interview with Lance.

  The NIH discusses the threat of superbugs and the steps we must take to fight these bacteria.

  Science Times writer for the New York Times Tavernise presents an in depth report on Lance’s work as well as his outlook on the future of fighting antibiotic resistance.

- Social media accounts who post on antibiotic resistance and related topics:
  - [https://www.facebook.com/CitizensAgainstSuperbugs](https://www.facebook.com/CitizensAgainstSuperbugs)

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