



## **Prevalence of Antimicrobial Resistance in cow calf and stocker operations in California**

Antimicrobial resistance is a major global public health challenge. In the recent past, use of antibiotics in livestock has been scrutinized and new legislation introduced to ensure the judicious use of these drugs in livestock. The fear is that the bacteria in animals that have been treated with antibiotics develop resistance to these drugs. When a person then is exposed to these bacteria, e.g. to E.coli from eating undercooked hamburger, and gets sick, the same types of drugs will not work on these patients anymore. Although there is little evidence that the use of antibiotics in livestock may lead to drug resistance in people, scientists and regulators take a prudent approach to the monitoring of livestock for antimicrobial resistant pathogens.

As part of this effort, we are asking for your help in letting us sample your animals. We are trying to establish a baseline of antimicrobial resistance in the bacteria in feces from different age groups of pastured beef cattle to see if there are any patterns. In addition, we would like to see if there are any differences between herds that are managed differently, for example, organic versus conventional.

After analyzing all the data, we will get back to you with the results of your own herd and the results of the entire study. All information will be handled confidentially. We will never disclose the source of our samples to anyone.

Thank you very much for your interest and your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Gaby Maier, DVM, PhD

Specialist for Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production