



# CHECKS & BALANCES

## FOR A SAFE FOOD SUPPLY

A common misperception is the antibiotics used on animals will be present in meat purchased at the store. All animals treated with antibiotics go through a withdrawal period and must meet federal standards for antibiotic residue before the meat enters the food supply. Antibiotics are used to ensure animal health, food safety and public health.

### STEP 1

The FDA sets specific treatment schedules and withdrawal times\* for every drug and animal. Farmers follow these guidelines to ensure no meat with antibiotic residue goes to market.



\*Number of days that must pass between completion of the dosing regimen before the animal continues through the final stages of the food production process.

### STEP 2

If needed, animals are given antibiotics according to label and treatment instructions approved by the FDA.



### STEP 3

The National Residue Program randomly tests food producing animals as they continue through the food supply, as an extra measure to ensure animals will be safe for consumers to eat.

