Dangerous Bacteria: From the Farm to You

Healthy animals are routinely given antibiotics in their food and/or water. Bacteria that’s present in the animals’ intestines react with the antibiotics. Some of the bacteria are killed, but a few survive. Those resistant bacteria flourish.

Animals excrete resistant bacteria in manure, and the bacteria spread to the community in several ways:

- Via soil, when animal waste is used to fertilize crops.
- Via water, when waste seeps into groundwater.
- Via air, when bacteria are carried by the wind.
- Via Farmers, who pick up the bacteria on their skin and transfer it when coming into contact with people.
- Via flies, which carry bacteria they have picked up on the farm.

People become ill with antibiotic-resistant infections.

Plant workers can pick up bacteria on their skin and transfer it to the meat or other people.

Healthy animals are routinely given antibiotics in their food and/or water. Bacteria that’s present in the animals’ intestines react with the antibiotics. Some of the bacteria are killed, but a few survive. Those resistant bacteria flourish.

Resistant bacteria can also contaminate raw meat during slaughter or processing.

THE RISKY BUSINESS OF SLEEPING DRUGS

The need for slumber drives people to use sleep drugs in potentially dangerous ways, according to a nationally representative survey of 4,023 U.S. adults conducted by Consumer Reports in June 2015. Survey respondents who used over-the-counter or prescription sleep aids told us that at least once in the previous year, they have done the following:

- Took sleep drugs without allowing at least 7 hours of sleep.
- Took sleep drugs without allowing at least 5 hours of sleep.
- Reported drowsiness the day after taking sleep drugs.
- Drove within 7 hours of taking sleep drugs.
- Dozed off while driving the next day.

In addition, the survey found that among people taking Rx sleep drugs:

- Took more than the recommended dose.
- Mixed Rx, OTC, or supplemental sleep aids with alcohol or recreational drugs such as marijuana.

Among people taking over-the-counter sleep drugs:

- Took them every day.
- Didn’t talk with a health professional about their use of the drugs.

BUYING A UHD TV? CONSIDER THESE TIPS

These days, most manufacturers spotlight Ultra HD TVs—which can display greater detail than regular 1080p sets—as the premium models in their lineup. Almost all of them are LED LCD models, though LG offers a few UHD OLED sets. Here are three compelling reasons it may pay to wait before buying one:

- You’ll still be paying a premium. Prices have fallen in the past eight months, but some big-screen flagship models still sell for $3,000 to $4,000—and OLEDs for many thousands more. We expect significant price drops by this time of year.
- There’s not a lot of 4K content. To date, only a small number of movies and programs—primarily from streaming services such as Amazon, M-Go, and Netflix—have taken advantage of the greater picture detail. However, expect to see the first 4,000 UHD Blu-ray players and discs later this year, and a lot more ultra-high-def streaming options in the year 2016.
- Standards are still evolving. Some UHD features, such as high dynamic range (HDR) and a wider range of color, have yet to reach their full majesty. And some new TVs claim HDR capability. But we think it makes sense to wait until all of the standards—for TVs, streaming media, and Blu-ray discs—are nailed down to ensure that your TV can take full advantage of them.

For more information of selecting a UHD TV, go to ConsumerReports.org/cro/tvs/buying-guide.