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Safe Feed Additives in Livestock Diets

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Feed Safety implies high level of assurance that the feed will not cause harm to the farm animals when prepared or consumed according to the intended use, or to the final consumer. The use of feed additives or drugs in food animals is regulated in nearly all countries. Safe animal feed products are necessary for healthy livestock. It is important to stay informed to ensure that livestock are receiving safe and healthy food. Products that improve feed efficiency are particularly important since feed costs are a major expense in animal production. Proper use of these products can improve beef cattle profits. Use of antibiotics in aviculture is considered as a risk factor to human health as their residues may be found in tissues and as they may cause cross-resistance for pathogenic bacteria in humans. Growth promoters including hormonal substances are used legally and illegally in food producing animals for the growth promotion of livestock animals. The addition of probiotics to farm animal diets has been found to improve growth performance, feed conversion and modulates the immune system to fight against various pathogens. The microbial safety of foods continues to be a major concern to consumers, regulatory agencies and food industries throughout the world. Many food preservation strategies have been used traditionally for the control of microbial spoilage in foods but the contamination of food and spoilage by microorganisms is a problem yet to be controlled adequately.