Dear Aunt Petunia,

I do see your struggle to decide whether to buy meat treated with antibiotics or not. Both sides have compelling arguments. You might be wondering what an antibiotic is in essence. Well, it is a microorganism that is developed in a lab to destroy other harmful bacteria in food and livestock. Farmers who treat their livestock with it do it to enhance their animal’s growth and to prevent them from getting sick to the diseases in the pastures. It has been shown through studies that there is an increase growth physiologically to animals that have received antibiotics and those who have not. Also, since livestock does not get sick from many of the common bacteria that they come across, the rate of lost profit goes down significantly. Another reason for the administration of antibiotics is that it improves reproductive performance. This leads to more offspring being produced and further extending the lineage.

As nice as this sounds on paper, there seems to be a dark side that no one wants to talk about. The double-edged sword nature of bacteria is that it is able to adapt to its environment quickly. When subjected to pathogens such as antibiotics, the bacteria is then able to alter its DNA and survive. Once it survives, it is then able to reproduce and there will be more bacteria that will have this resistance to the antibiotic.