

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE 101

How Antibiotic Misuse
on Factory Farms Can
Make You Sick



John Qua, Austin Community Organizer, Food & Water Watch

Contact: jqua@fwwlocal.org, (203) 858-1453

About

- This presentation has been put together by Food & Water Watch to inform the public about the increasing threat of antibiotic resistance being bred on factory farms.
- Food & Water Watch is a leading consumer advocacy group based out of Washington, D.C., with 16 field offices across the country. We work to ensure that the food and water we consume is safe and sustainable, that corporations are held accountable, and that our government works to protect the public, not special interest profits.
- Our goal is to educate the public about an increasingly urgent public health threat — antibiotic-resistant bacteria being bred on factory farms — in order to drive lawmakers to act.

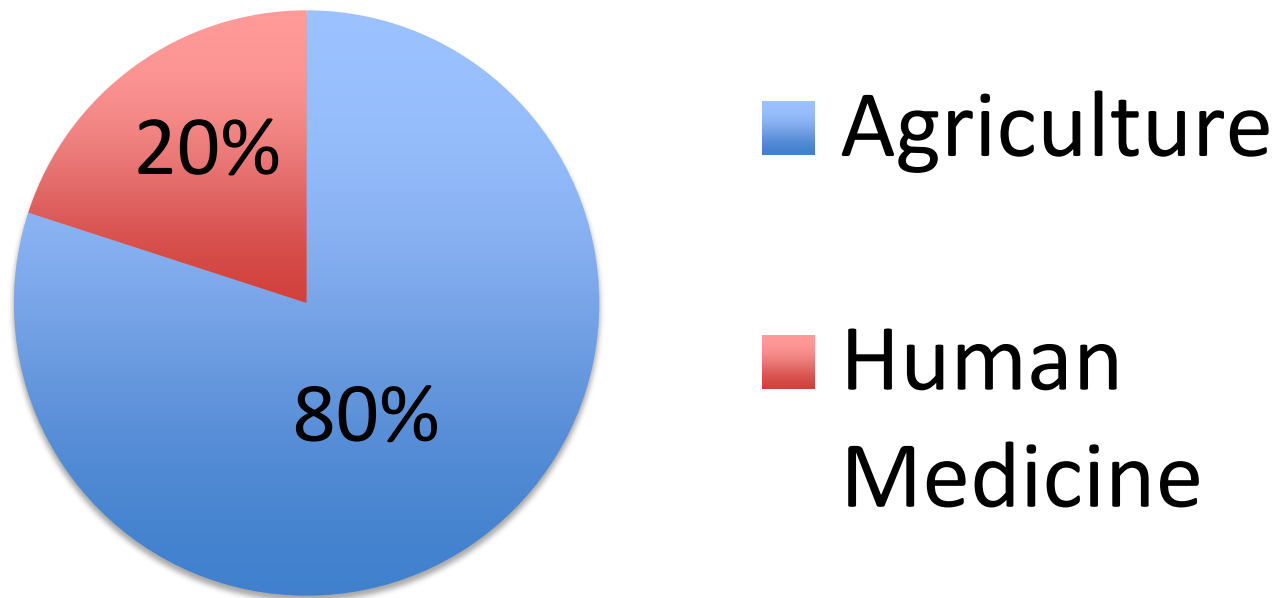
Section 1

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

*“There is the danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself **and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug make them resistant.**”*

– Alexander Fleming, 1945

Antibiotic Use in the U.S.



The science is clear

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention Report, fall 2013.
 - Over **two million** people per year suffer from antibiotic-resistant infections, and at least **23,000** people die from them
 - "Simply using antibiotics creates resistance. These drugs should only be used to treat infections."

Who else thinks it's a problem?

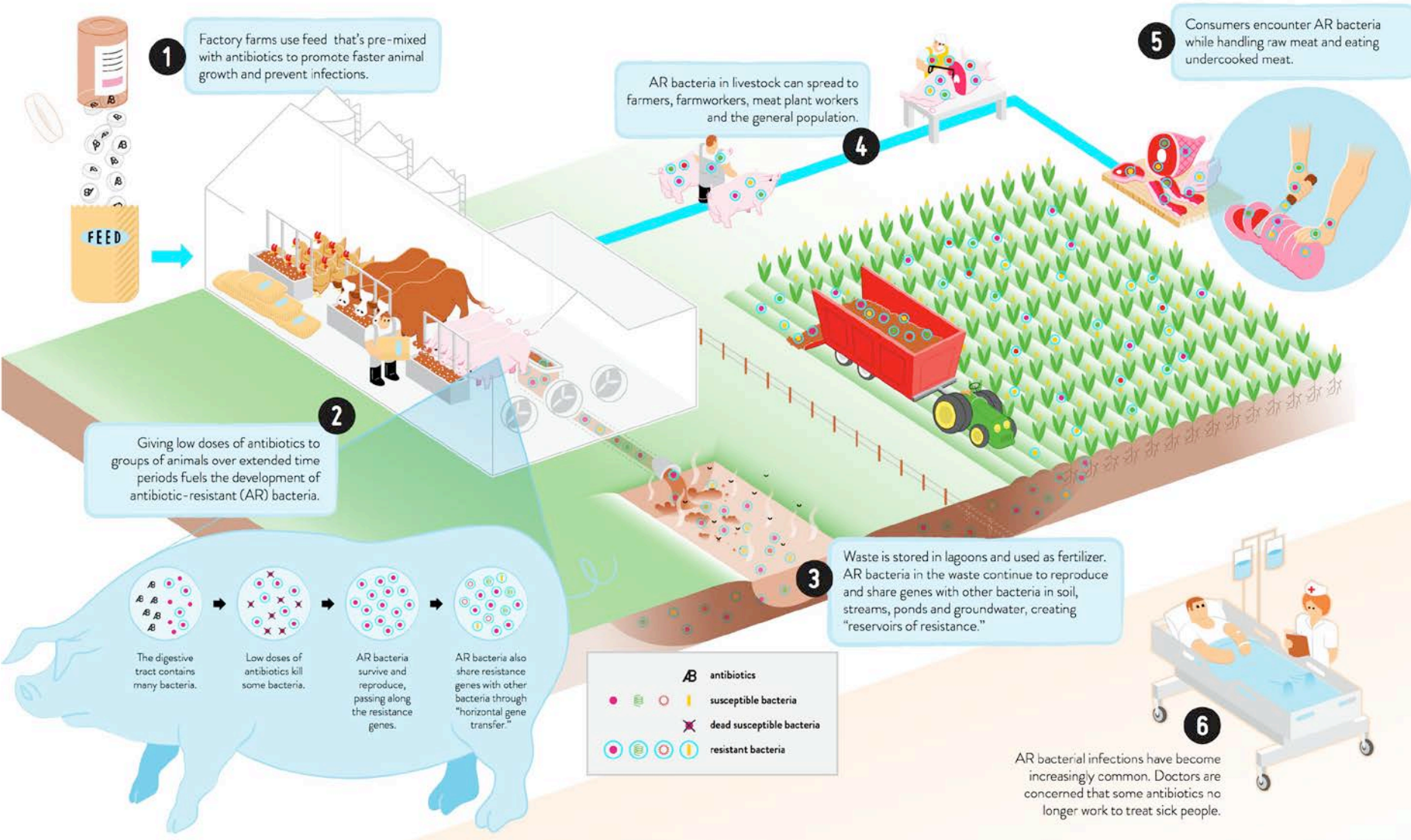
- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Infectious Disease Society of America
- American Public Health Association
- World Health Organization

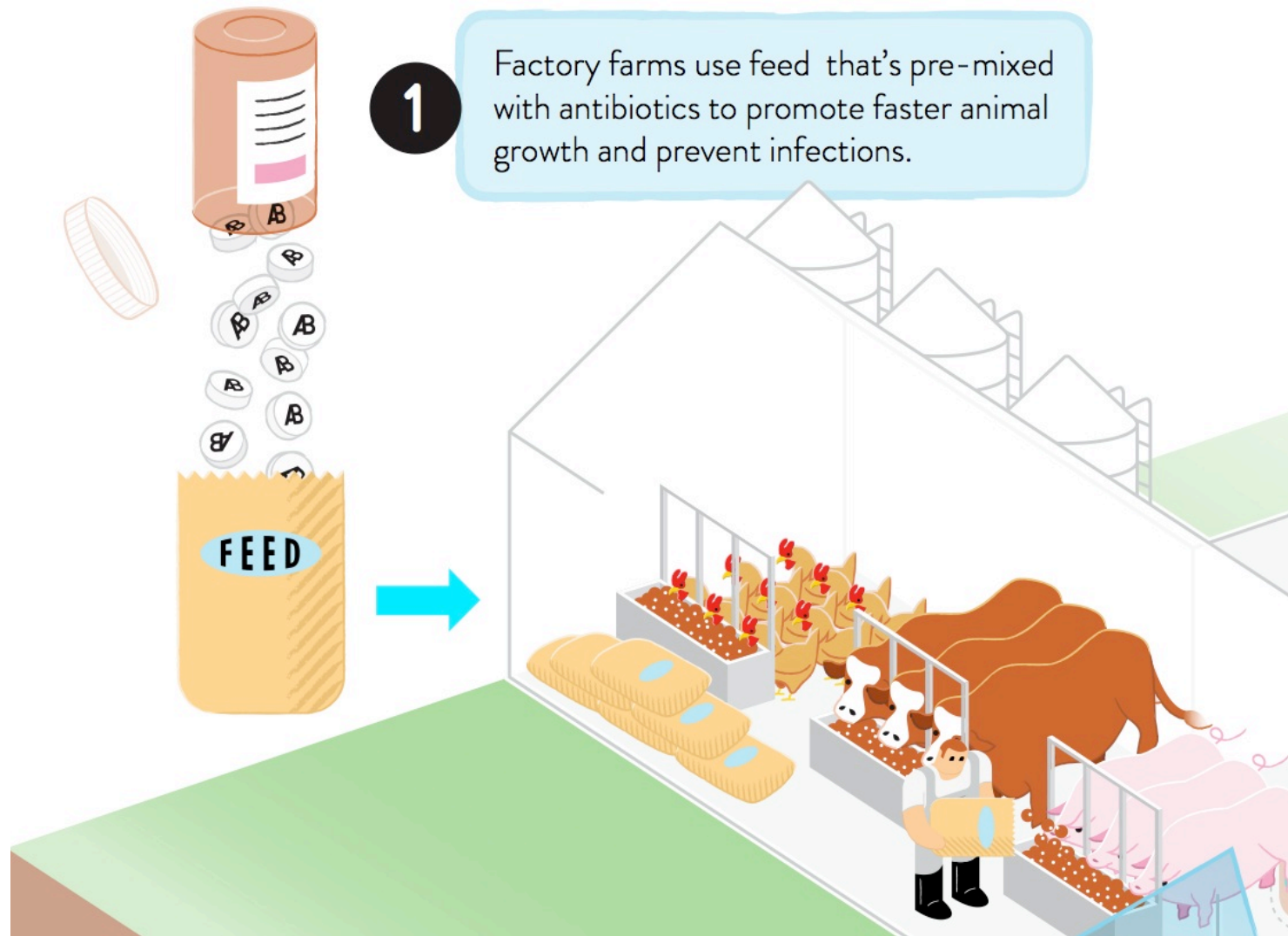
And the list goes on...

Section 2

FACTORY FARMS HAVE A DIRTY SECRET

How Antibiotic Misuse On Factory Farms Can Make You Sick







antibiotics



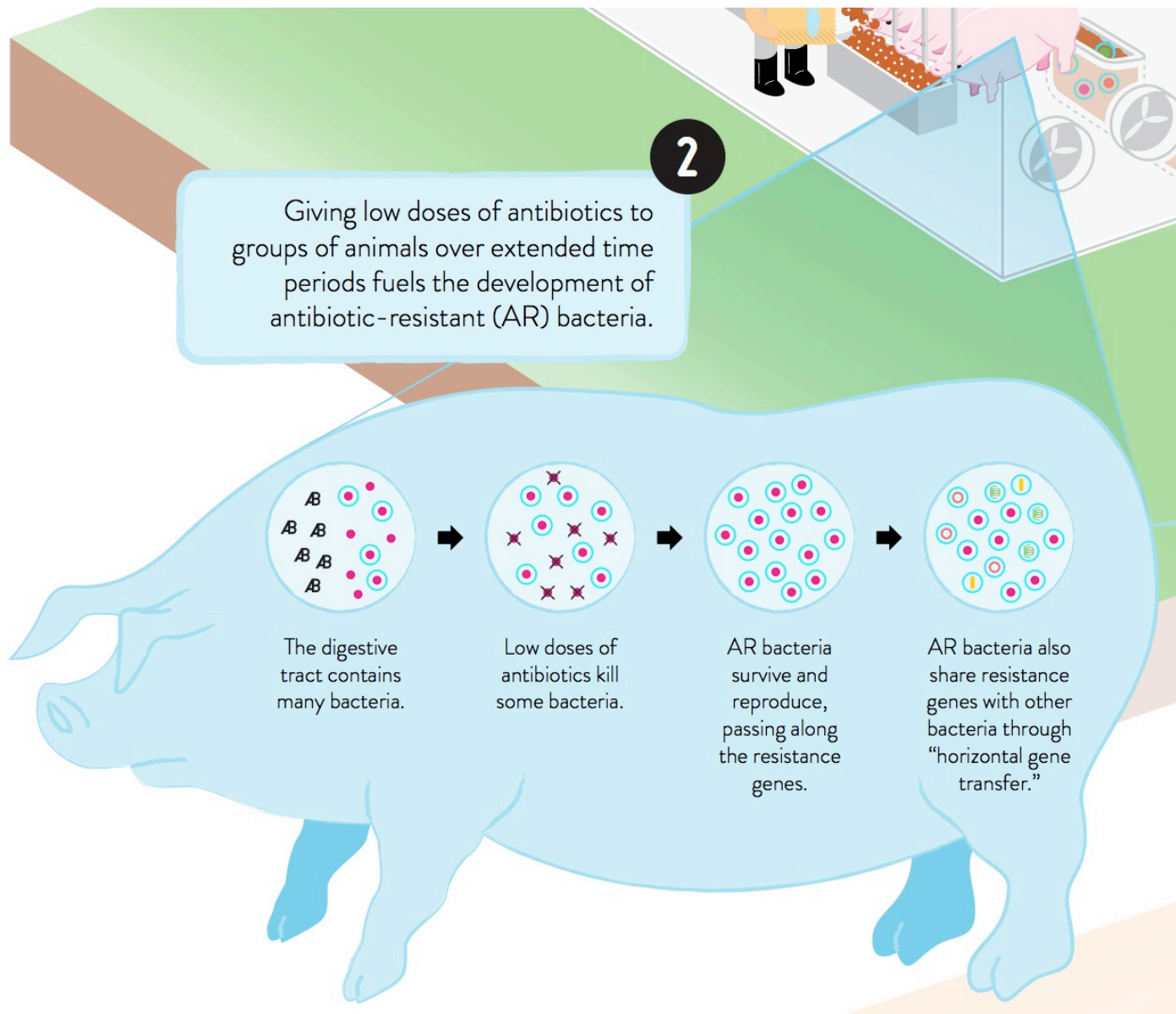
susceptible bacteria

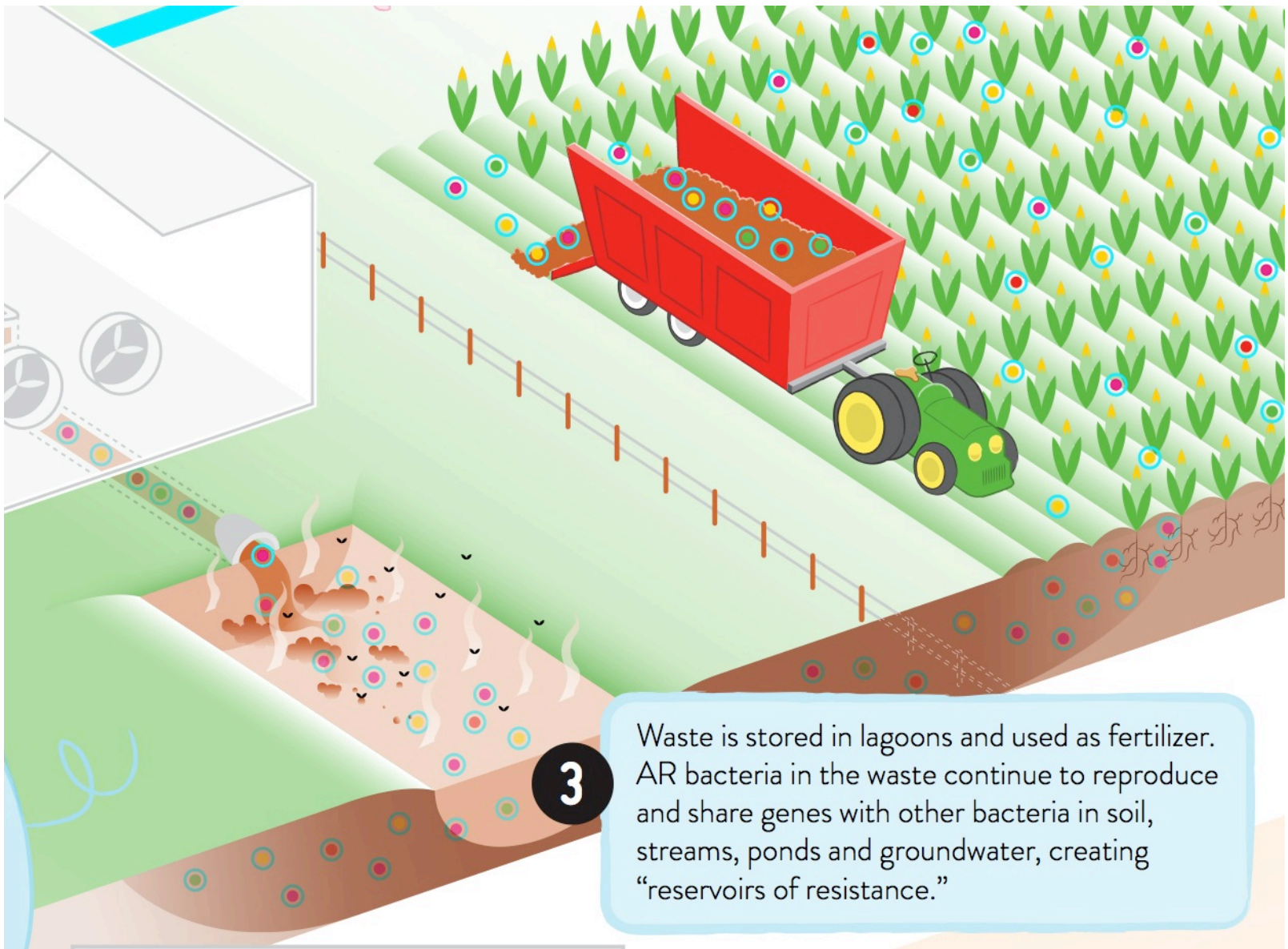


dead susceptible bacteria



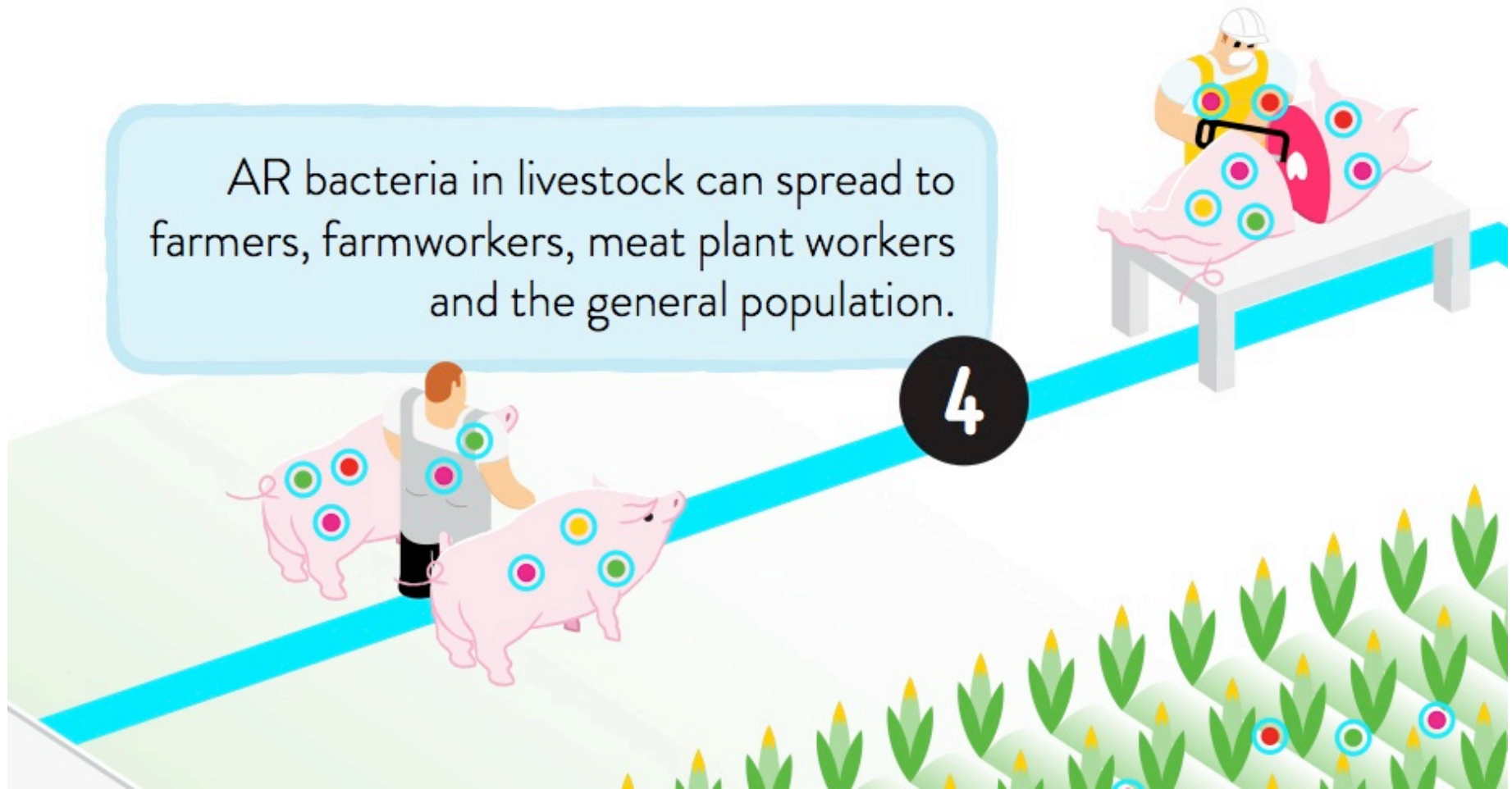
resistant bacteria





Waste is stored in lagoons and used as fertilizer. AR bacteria in the waste continue to reproduce and share genes with other bacteria in soil, streams, ponds and groundwater, creating “reservoirs of resistance.”

AR bacteria in livestock can spread to farmers, farmworkers, meat plant workers and the general population.



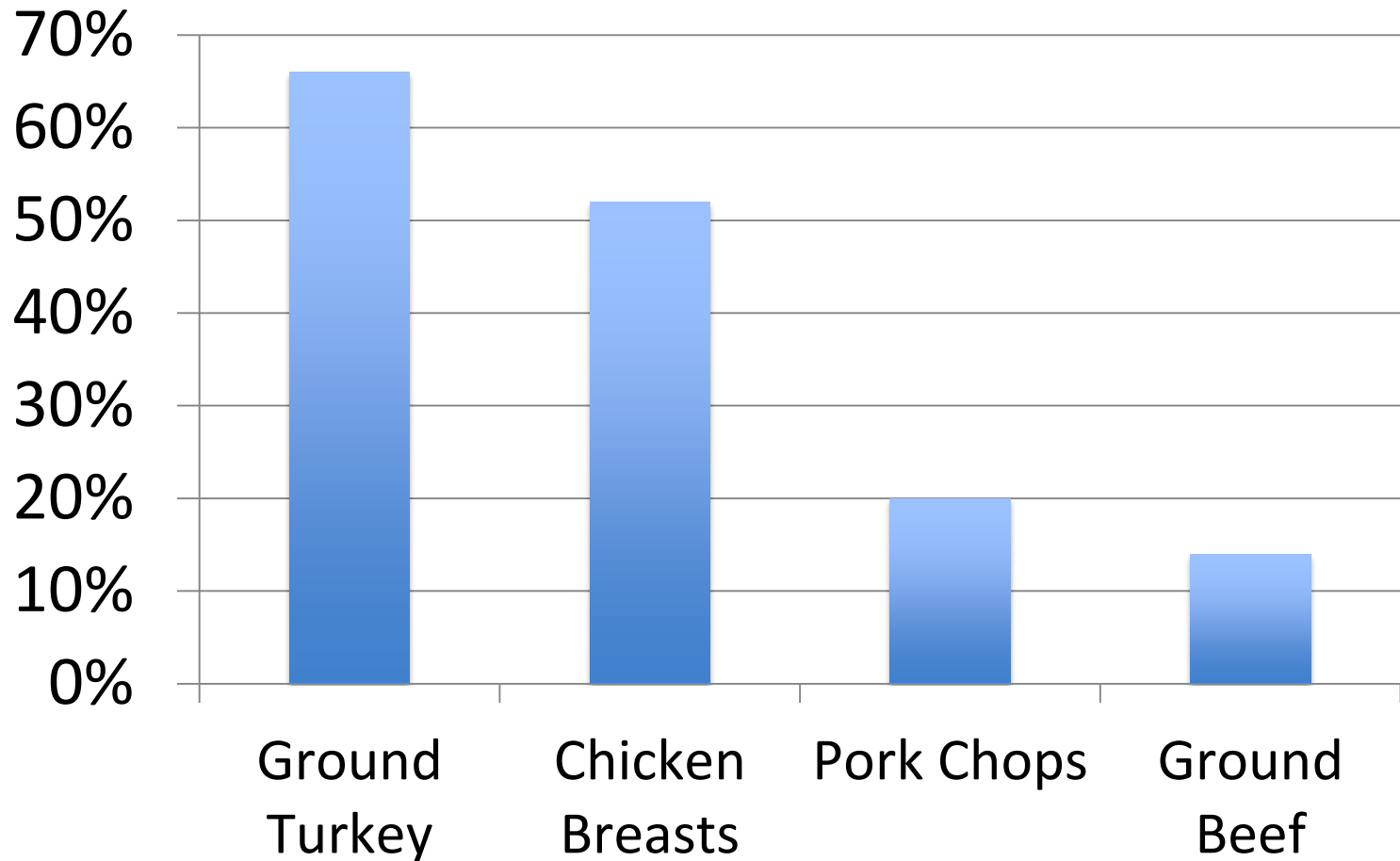
5

Consumers encounter AR bacteria while handling raw meat and eating undercooked meat.



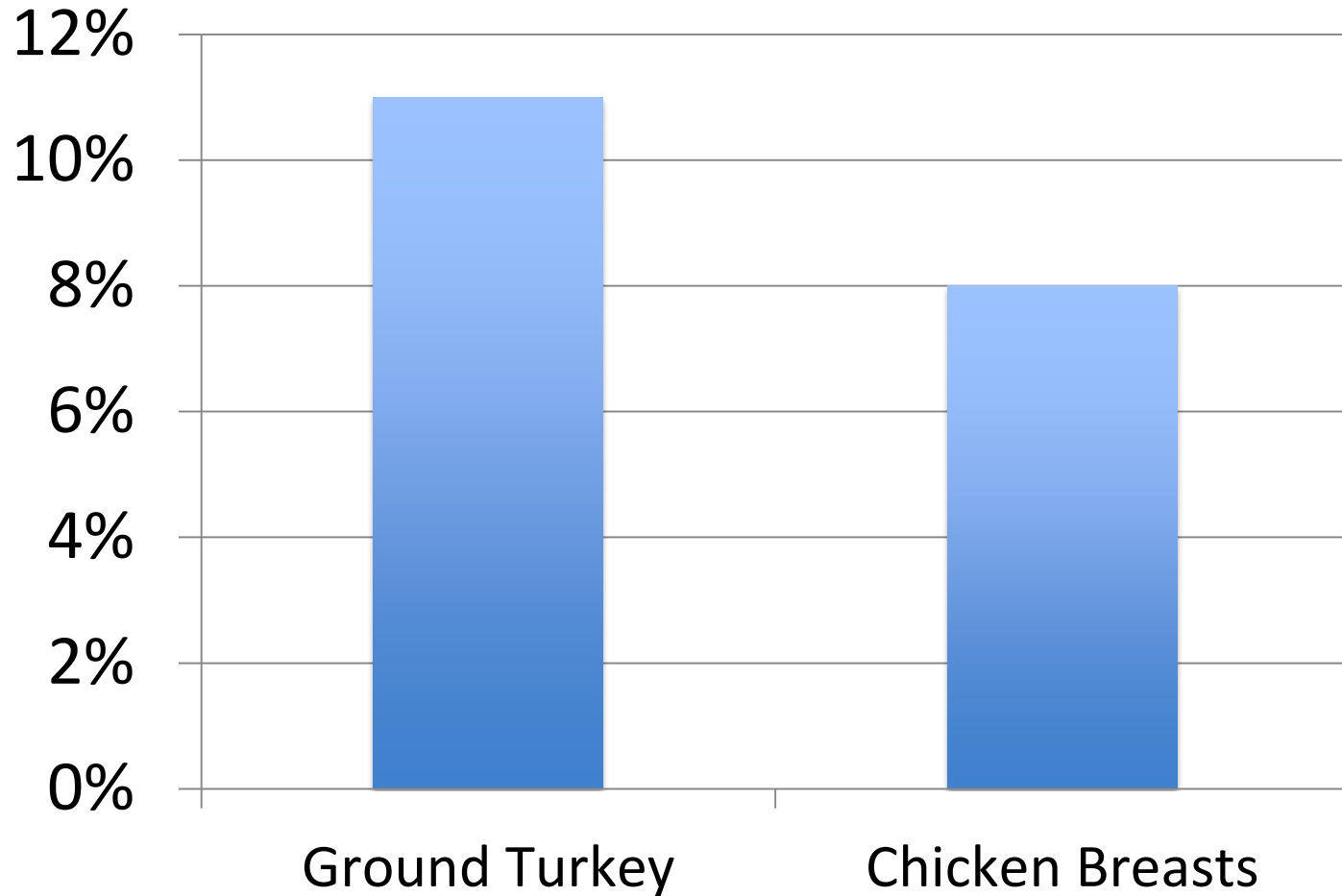
AR *E. coli* in 2010

NARMS Retail Meat Samples



***AR Salmonella* in 2010**

NARMS Retail Meat Samples





AR bacterial infections have become increasingly common. Doctors are concerned that some antibiotics no longer work to treat sick people.

From Factory Farms to People

- Foodborne pathogens
- Livestock-associated MRSA
- E. Coli causing urinary tract infections

Section 3

SAVING ANTIBIOTICS FOR MEDICINE, NOT FACTORY FARMS

Too little, too late from FDA

- In late 2013, FDA released guidelines for drug companies to attempt to limit some uses of antibiotics in factory farming.
 - The guidelines only apply to growth promotion uses of antibiotics.
 - Factory farms will still use most of those drugs in the same way, feeding daily low doses to prevent disease in filthy, crowded living conditions.

So why haven't we fixed this?

- Lack of public awareness
- Powerful opposition from special interests
- We need a groundswell of public support in order to spur action

Proven Success in the EU

(And they're still producing food!)

- The European Union banned the use of all antibiotics for growth promotion in 2006
- Results:
 - Antibiotic-resistant bacteria has since declined in livestock, meat and people in the EU.
 - Denmark, the second country to implement such a ban, has seen substantial growth in its pork industry, growing more pigs with lower antibiotics use per pig.
- The real economic threat is the cost of antibiotic-resistant infections that are harder to treat.

We Need Federal Action

- Legislation has been introduced in Congress to ban the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms.
 - The Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) in the Senate, S. 1256
 - The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA) in the House, H.R. 1150

40 Cites Have Passed Resolutions in 4 Months

- San Francisco, CA
- Berkeley, CA
- Seattle, WA
- St Paul, MN
- Madison, WI
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Pittsburg, PA
- Alexandria, VA
- Providence, RI
- Cambridge, MA



Our Austin Coalition

Local Groups

- Beyond Coal Austin
- Public Citizen Texas
- Austin Eco Network
- TexPIRG
- Environment Texas
- Texas Drought Project
- Enviro Media
- Whole Life Learning Center
- Sustainable Food Center
- Hope Farmers Market
- Go Local Austin
- Food is Free Project
- March Against Monsanto – Austin
- Austin Organic Gardeners

- Local Businessse
- Intelliroof
- Counter Culture Restaurant
- Vital Eggs Farms
- Boggy Creek Farm
- Countryside Farm
- Austin Honey Company
- Smith & Smith Farms

- Wendy Town Farms
- Windy Hill Farm
- Foreign & Domestic
- Concha's Salsa
- Cocoa Puro
- Curious Confections
- Oat Cuisine

And over 20 doctors & medical professionals

**And over 1,200 Austin area residents have signed
our petition!**

**Please support, sponsor, and approve this
resolution to commit Austin to a healthier food
system that keeps our medicine working.**

