

Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety

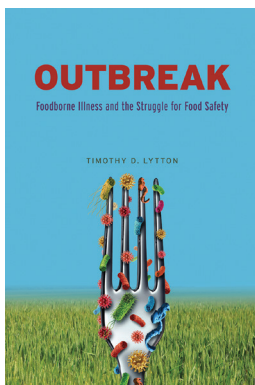
Timothy D. Lytton; University of Chicago Press; Chicago, IL, USA, 2019; ISBN-10: 022661168X; ISBN-13: 978-0226611686; Pages: 384; Price: Hardcover \$90.00, Paperback \$30.00

Public health advances step by step, as hazards are recognized and better control and prevention strategies are developed. How this happens, how new safety measures come into being, and how they are improved and become part of the way we live are the focus of this new book, *Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety*.

Professor Timothy D. Lytton, a keen scholar of regulatory evolution, provides a lively and well-documented guide to 150 years of major advances in food safety regulation and prevention in the United States. He starts with the early efforts to cleanse and regulate the milk supply in the 19th century that ultimately led to near-universal pasteurization. Efforts to make canned food free of botulism in the 1920s led to a new focus on critical control steps in processing, using sufficient time and heat to eliminate the risk, and thus to a new general approach based on process control. Modernizing meat inspection with process control logic in the 1990s and the recent efforts to make fresh produce safer in the 2000s take the reader to the controversies of the present day.

This book fills a critical gap, weaving the history of public health, regulatory agencies, and the food industry together with issues of immediate concern today. It is an innovative perspective that captures the complexity of the system beyond the scientific report or published regulation. The book should be of interest to students and practitioners of public health and food science and anyone interested in making food reliably safe.

With fresh examples and detailed interviews, Lytton illustrates the dynamic interplay of outbreak investigations, better prevention strategies developed by industry, consumer advocacy, and regulations. He explains why the resulting balance is a punctuated equilibrium, with longer steady states ending in momentous rapid change. Large and catastrophic outbreaks come as the final trigger, as “focusing events” that, with media coverage, increase public attention and create pressure for change. Lytton tells the striking and less well-known story of what happens behind the scenes as food safety champions within the industry push new solutions and voluntary standards forward, show how they



could reduce contamination, and gain adherents up and down the food supply chain, thus leading the way for others in industry and regulators to follow. He also deftly outlines the complex roles of third-party auditors, who provide information to one company about the safety practices of its suppliers, and provides a fresh perspective on the growing role that liability insurers may play in the future.

This is history that uplifts, showing how we honor those who suffered from and died of a foodborne disease that is now preventable in the form of better practices and safer food today. In the crucible of public action, it reminds us all how these advances begin and, with feedback and learning, how they can succeed.

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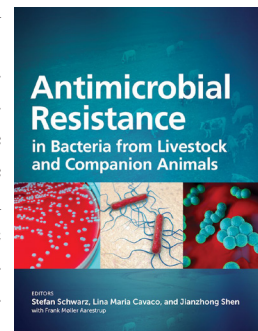
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Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacteria from Livestock and Companion Animals

Stefan Schwarz, Lina Maria Cavaco, Jianzhong Shen; ASM Press, Washington DC, 2018; ISBN-10: 1555819796; ISBN-13: 978-1555819798; Pages: 712; Price: \$120.00 (Hardcover)

In this era of “superbugs” and rising antimicrobial resistance, *Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacteria from Livestock and Companion Animals* is a valuable resource to better understand the contribution of animal-derived pathogens to this growing public health crisis. The use of antimicrobial drugs in animal populations is not without controversy; the underlying concern, of course, is that antimicrobial use in animals results in illness and death in humans. This text does not seek to specifically condemn or exonerate. Instead,



it provides a comprehensive account of a very complicated topic, delving into the nuances needed to understand the what, where, when, and why of antimicrobial resistance in companion animals and livestock.

The text begins with a historical overview of the discovery of antimicrobial drugs and a detailed characterization of the indications for and regulation of their use in veterinary medicine. Salient technical issues are discussed, including antimicrobial susceptibility testing in veterinary pathogens, diagnostic methods for detecting antimicrobial resistance, and licensing of antimicrobial drugs. Overviews of the mechanisms of resistance to antimicrobial agents, including antibiotics, metals, and biocides, provide context to the main substance of the text: an exhaustive report of current antimicrobial resistance in a wide range of pathogens of veterinary and medical importance. The text closes with a look into the future of mitigating antimicrobial resistance in veterinary and production settings through monitoring, surveillance, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacteria from Livestock and Companion Animals presents a wealth of information

and is a critical resource for anyone who studies, treats, or is affected by antimicrobial resistance in domesticated animals or the food products that come from them. Contributing authors are globally renowned experts in the field who have composed thoughtful and insightful accounts that generally walk the line between technically thorough and accessible to a broad audience. Whether one is interested in a specific pathogen or in policy to mitigate antimicrobial resistance, this text offers a comprehensive review of the increasingly urgent topic that is antimicrobial resistance in animal-derived pathogens.

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NEWS AND NOTES

***Emerging Infectious Diseases* Is Moving to Online Only**

Starting with the January 2020 issue, *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (EID) will join the growing ranks of journals published online only. We made the decision to stop publishing on paper with the recognition that our readers increasingly access the journal only online, and not through paper copies. In addition, we think the move offers at least three advantages to the journal and its readers. First, we can use budget dollars saved for other important journal functions, such as editing and production. EID is now recruiting a new assistant editor, who will help speed up the review of submitted manuscripts.

Second, we can “go green.” Printing and mailing paper issues of the journal carry environmental costs. In recent years, we have come to believe that these costs are not outweighed by whatever advantages remain to printed pages.

Third, we can place even more emphasis on online-only materials included as supplements or appendices to articles published in the journal. These materials now

represent a substantial portion of all the pages that we publish. We think that, in the future, they will become an even more important part of the journal.

Readers should rest assured that EID articles will continue to be available online as they have before, along with supplemental materials and appendices. Entire issues of the journal will continue to be available in the PDF format. Readers who have enjoyed browsing a full printed issue of EID can continue to do so by using any Web-connected desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or smartphone.

We invite all readers to subscribe to our monthly table of contents alerts on the journal’s Web site at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/subscriptions> and to follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/CDC_EIDjournal.

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