

INFOCUS

New data from the National Milk Drug Residue Database reinforced the dairy industry's claims that antibiotic residues in milk are uncommon. The annual report collates residue testing data from processors, handlers and state regulatory agencies. It reports positive tests for residues in raw milk from on-farm bulk tanks, from pickup tankers and after pasteurization of fluid milk and milk-based products.

Of the nearly 3.2 million samples of raw milk obtained from milk pickup tankers in the U.S. last year, only 445 or 0.014 percent tested positive for a drug residue. That's one in every 7,187. It was the seventh year in a row that the percentage of residue-positive samples from pickup tankers declined.

This report was not the long-anticipated thorough FDA report on residues in milk. Experts expect that final report to be released soon.

The image of the milk tanker to the right has been created using 7,187 dots, the same number of samples that you would have to take in order to find one that was positive for a drug residue.

Can you spot the **one dot** that is colored differently? It's about as hard to find as drug residues in raw milk.



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None of the more than 40,000 pasteurized fluid milk and milk-based products that were sampled tested positive for drug residues. Data from four of the last five years have not yielded a single positive result for pasteurized products.

.06%

Out of 467,429 samples of raw milk obtained from on-farm bulk tanks, only 281 samples or 0.06% tested positive for a drug residue.

The most commonly found residues in the few positive samples identified were:

BETA lactams (0.019% of samples)

Tetracyclines (0.007% of samples)

Sulfonamides (0.004% of samples)

Editor's note: This most recent information comes from the National Milk Drug Residue Database, released Feb. 13, 2014, and is available at www.kandc-sbcc.com/nmdrd. The reporting period is from Oct. 1, 2012 through Sept. 30, 2013.