

Questions and Answers

Q: Who is required to submit data to University of Maryland, JIFSAN?

A: All state, territorial and third party regulatory agencies responsible for the safety of milk and milk products. The goal of the project is to capture the results of all testing performed for the detection of animal drug residues in milk. The Procedures of the NCIMS require such reporting by these agencies. The regulatory agencies are responsible for enlisting the support of the dairy industry for full and complete reporting of the tests they perform. Appendix N requires all Grade "A" cow milk receivers to report each positive result to their regulatory agency. Some states also require non-Grade "A" cow milk receivers to report each positive result to their regulatory agency. It is therefore important that the results of all testing be reported so as not to unfavorably skew the results.

Q: What data are required to be submitted to University of Maryland, JIFSAN?

A: Regulatory agencies are required to submit all drug residue test results from samples collected under their regulatory program. This includes samples under Section 6 of the PMO (raw commingled, producer samples, and pasteurized finished milk) as well as tanker monitoring samples under Appendix N. Industry is required to notify state regulatory agencies of any positive results under Appendix N. This is to be reported to the database. In addition, industry is requested to submit any of their own sampling results on raw commingled, producer samples and pasteurized finished product.

Q: When is the data expected to be submitted?

A: Sixty days after the end of the month in which the testing was done. The program allows for two months from the close of data collection before we contact states that are late. For example, data of January's testing should be in University of Maryland, JIFSAN's hands by the end of March. The most recent contract between the FDA and University of Maryland, JIFSAN, changed the publication date for the Annual Report to December 15th. Participants are reminded that all data up to and including September, are due on or before December 1, for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Q: Does the NMDRD include animal drug residue testing of other species milk, such as sheep and goats?

A: No. The NMDRD only includes animal drug residue testing of cow's milk. It does not include other species such as sheep, goats, camels, water buffalo, etc.

Q: Where and how are data to be submitted?

A: All regulatory agencies are currently registered to utilize the web-based reporting application which submits data directly to the database for review. Instructions for the web-based reporting application can be found on the informational web page for the National Milk Drug Residue Database at: <https://www.nmdrd.com>. In an emergency, hard copy reports can be "snail mailed" to Cynthia Petersen at: 1661 Westfield Court, Vero Beach, Florida 32966 or e-mailed to: dbadmin@nmdrd.com. She will input the data into the database. The preferred method is the web-based reporting application.

Q: Our state uses certified industry representatives to collect some of the Section 6 samples for the agency. How should these samples be reported?

A: Samples collected to satisfy a state's regulatory program are regulatory samples and should be reported as such. For example, producer samples collected by certified samplers should be reported as regulatory samples, not industry samples.

Q: Our regulatory agency conducts all confirmations on positive tanker loads sampled initially by industry at the plant, should these results be reported as regulatory or industry?

A: These results should be reported as industry. Confirmation by the state regulatory agency does not make the sample regulatory. The positive sample should only be reported once, unless the sample was positive for more than one class of drugs (beta lactams and sulfonamides, etc.)

Q: We receive most of our milk from out of state sources and the shipping state monitors the disposal of positive loads. Who should report the pounds of positive milk destroyed?

A: If your state has established special arrangements with the shipping state, the shipping state can report the pounds destroyed; otherwise, the receiving state should be reporting the pounds that were disposed.

Q: Our milk plant has a number of sources from which we routinely receive milk, but we occasionally receive milk from other BTU's and co-ops. How should these samples be reported?

A: In the same manner as that received from regular supplies in accordance with the definitions for the Source of Sample.

Q: When we test producer samples as part of the farm trace back, should these be reported as producer samples (PS)?

A: No. This is all considered as part of the follow-up required under Appendix N (see Note 1 of The Instructions For Submitting Data For The National Milk Drug Residue Data Base Program. Similarly, the testing of cow samples and herd samples are not to be reported to the program. Such testing is done by some receivers for the convenience of their patrons and is not a part of the reporting program.

Q: I'm having a problem with the web-based reporting application. Whom should I contact for help?

A: Initially, get in touch with the Technical Director for University of Maryland, JIFSAN, Laurie Kurtz, at 301-491-1553 or send e-mail to: techdirector@nmdrd.com. If she is unable to provide you with assistance, she will contact our software wizard, Greg Lyon, or Laurie will refer you directly to Greg at systech@nmdrd.com or 301-314-6825.

Q: What if I have other questions or issues relating to the data, data entry, or the database?

A: The informational web site, <https://nmdrd.com/>, has all the contact information at the bottom of the page and the web application has it also if you click the Support link on the left side.