



New Zealand National Chemical Residues Programme Report

Results for 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 for cattle, sheep, goats, farmed deer, horses, pigs, wild animals, ostriches, honey, farmed salmon, fish, poultry, turkeys, and ducks

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ACRONYMS

ACVM	means the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997
APA	means the Animal Products Act 1999
ML	means maximum level as specified in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 19: Maximum levels of contaminants and natural toxins
MPI	means the Ministry for Primary Industries
MPL	means maximum permissible level as specified by Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Specifications
MRL	means maximum residue level as specified Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds
NAIT	means the National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012
NCRP	means the National Chemical Residues Programme
NZ	means New Zealand
PAH	means polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	means polychlorinated biphenyl
RFID	means radio frequency identification tag

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has a number of residue monitoring programmes associated with the Animal Products Act (APA), the Food Act and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act.

The residue monitoring programmes cover the full range of primary products (meat, seafood, honey, milk and dairy products), and fresh produce intended for export and domestic consumption, as well as general food, as consumed by the average New Zealand person.

These programmes are based on ensuring that we have the confidence and requisite assurance that food is safe and good agricultural practice (GAP) is being followed. MPI regularly reviews the programmes to consider new chemicals of interest, changing use patterns, new scientific information and trade requirements.

The National Chemical Residues Programme (NCRP) of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is a risk-based sampling and testing programme.

The monitoring component of the NCRP tests samples from randomly-selected farmed and wild animals, farmed salmon, fish and honey.

The surveillance component tests samples from targeted at-risk animals, animal material or animal products.

Samples are collected by persons authorised to do so and procedures are in place to ensure that traceability, security and quality management are maintained from collection through to analysis and storage.

Samples are analysed at laboratories contracted by MPI to do so. Contracted laboratories have ISO/IEC 17025 and International Accreditation New Zealand accreditation and are approved under the MPI Recognised Laboratory Programme.

Over 2 800 samples were collected and tested for hundreds of agricultural compounds, veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants. Over 190 000 test results were obtained with eight results higher than maximum levels. This represents a conformance rate in New Zealand of 99.996%. No food safety issues were identified. The reported results from the NCRP confirm that regulatory compliance is being met and good agricultural practices are being followed in the use of agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines.

The results of the species verification programme verified there was no species substitution.

2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The programme is mandated by and managed in accordance with wide-ranging New Zealand legislation. The principle legislation is the Animal Products Act 1999 and its subsidiary regulations and notices. Legislation is listed on the MPI website¹ and full texts are available at the New Zealand Legislation website².

2.1 LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO NCRP

Primary Legislation (Act)	Activity	Secondary Legislation (Regulations)	Tertiary Legislation (Specifications or Notices)	Description
Animal Products Act 1999	Sampling regime, competent persons, testing	Animal Products (Regulated Control Scheme - Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance) Regulations 2004	Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance	The legal basis for creating an operational sampling plan for animals, animal material and animal products (excluding honey) to be implemented at randomly selected primary processors of meat and seafood, aquaculture farms and sale yards. This notice is renewed annually.
	Species Verification		Animal Products (Species Verification) 2014, No.2	The legal basis for sampling and testing raw boneless meat to confirm no species substitution
	MPLs (excluding honey)		Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Specifications	The legal basis for maximum (and default) permissible levels of contaminants in animals, animal material and animal products.
	Laboratory specifications		Animal Products Notice: Laboratory Specifications	Provides for MPI recognition of laboratories providing testing services.
	Identification & management of hormonal growth promotants treated animals		Animal Products Notice: Regulated Control Scheme for Hormonal Growth Promotants	The legal basis for the identification and management of hormonal growth promotants treated animals to ensure export eligibility requirements are met.
	Control of Specified Substances		Animal Products (Control of Specified Substances) Notice 2007	The legal basis for the prohibition of use of certain specified substances in food producing animals
	Sampling regime, competent persons, testing for bee products		Animal Products Notice: Regulated Control Scheme – Verification of Contaminants in Bee Products for Exports	The legal basis for creating an operational sampling plan for honey to be implemented at randomly selected suppliers of honey intended for domestic and export production, under the APA.
	Export MPLs (honey)		General requirement for export: 08/035 Contaminant Requirements for Bee Products for Export	The legal basis for maximum (and default) permissible levels of contaminants in honey intended for export.
	Identification & management of buparvaquone treated animals		Animal Products Notice: Specifications for animals treated with Buparvaquone	The legal basis for the identification and management of buparvaquone treated animals to ensure export eligibility requirements are met.

¹ <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/>

² <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/>

Primary Legislation (Act)	Activity	Secondary Legislation (Regulations)	Tertiary Legislation (Specifications or Notices)	Description
	Authorisation of samplers		Animal Products (Export Requirement: Inspection Agencies Ante-mortem and Post-Mortem Inspection) Notice 2009	The legal basis for the collection of samples as a task associated with ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection.
	Procurement, slaughter and processing		Animal Products Notice: Specifications For Products Intended For Human Consumption	The legal basis for the procurement, slaughter and processing of animals, animal material and animal products for human consumption.
	Recognised Agencies		Animal Products (Recognised Agencies and Persons Specifications) Notice 2015	The legal basis for agencies to provide powers for particular activities such as verification
Food Act 2014 / FSANZ	MRLs		Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds	The legal basis for maximum (and default) residue levels of residues and contaminants (not including metals) in food intended for domestic consumption.
	MLs		Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Schedule 19: Maximum levels of contaminants and natural toxins	The legal basis for maximum levels of metal contaminants) in food intended for domestic consumption.
Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997	Registration of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines			This Act provides for the registration and label conditions of veterinary medicines and agricultural chemicals.
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996	Management of human and environmental exposure to substances			This Act has responsibility for imposing controls to limit exposure to a wide range of substances (including agricultural substances and veterinary medicines) to ensure public health and environmental safety
National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012	Identification and tracking of cattle and deer			This Act provides for the identification of cattle and deer using RFID ear tags as well as obligations that participants in the NAIT scheme must meet, for example, registering as a person in charge of animals. NAIT identification for buparvaquone and hormonal growth promotants treated animals is used to identify these animals at slaughter.
Veterinarians Act 2005				This Act provides for registration of veterinarians in New Zealand. Under this Act, and in accordance with their registration, veterinarians must perform to specified professional standards.

3 ACTIONS TAKEN WHEN RESULTS ARE ABOVE MAXIMUM LEVELS

3.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Animal material or animal products for export need to meet the specifications set in the following regulations and notices:

- Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Specifications, 27 July 2016.
- General Requirement for Export: 08/035 Contaminant Requirements for Bee Products for Export.
- Any Notice issued under Section 60A of the APA;
- Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels of Agricultural Compounds;
- Food Regulations 2015; and
- The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, Standard 1.4.1: Contaminants and natural toxicants.

3.2 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

When residues greater than maximum levels are identified, a trace back is initiated and the residue finding investigated.

The most common regulatory action taken against the suppliers of animals from which residues greater than maximum levels were found is to place them on the MPI surveillance list.

Suppliers remain on the surveillance list until surveillance sampling has confirmed that there are no further residue detections which exceed the maximum level in supplied animals as well as acceptable measures have been put in place to prevent reoccurrence.

In some situations MPI gives consideration to prosecuting offenders and, where appropriate, animals may be subject to movement restrictions. Animals under movement restrictions may not be moved from a property without MPI authorisation and may require to be specially identified.

4 SAMPLES COLLECTED AND COMPOUNDS TESTED FOR ACROSS ALL MONITORING PROGRAMMES

Sampling programme	Number of samples collected	Number of substances reported
Bee 2016 / 2017	159	4 282
Farmed Salmon 2016 / 2017	135	1 635
Fish 2016 / 2017	32	515
Meat 2016 / 2017	2 443	174 680
Ostriches + Emu's 2016 / 2017	1	435
Poultry 2016 / 2017	101	9 424
Total	2 871	193 627

5 RESULTS OF THE MONITORING, SURVEILLANCE & SPECIES VERIFICATION PROGRAMMES

5.1 LIVE CATTLE

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	60	64	0
Beta-agonists	60	63	0
Phenicol	60	63	0

5.2 SLAUGHTERED CATTLE

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	100	100	0
Beta-agonists	100	100	0
Phenicol	100	100	0
Nitrofurans	100	104	0
Antibiotics	160	162	0
Ceftiofur	25	25	0
Sulphonamides	60	59*	0
Anticoccidials	100	100	1(a)
Anthelmintics	100	102	1(b)
Pesticides	150	152	1(c)
NSAIDs	25	25	0
1080	75	75	0
Heavy metals	50	49*	0
Anticoagulants	15	16	0

(a) One detection of monensin above New Zealand standards³.

(b) One detection of abamectin above New Zealand standards³.

(c) One detection of oxyfluorfen above New Zealand standards³.

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

³ Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Specifications, 27 July 2016

5.3 SHEEP

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	100	100	0
Beta-agonists	100	100	0
Phenicol	100	100	0
Nitrofurans	100	103	0
Antibiotics	100	100	0
Anticoccidials	25	27	0
Anthelmintics	100	103	0
Pesticides	50	52	0
1080	75	76	0
Heavy metals	50	51	0
Anticoagulants	15	16	0

5.4 GOATS

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	25	29	0
Beta-agonists	25	29	0
Phenicol	25	29	0
Nitrofurans	25	28	0
Antibiotics	25	26	0
Anticoccidials	25	28	0
Anthelmintics	25	28	0
Pesticides	25	26	0
1080	75	77	0
Heavy metals	25	25	0
Anticoagulants	15	16	0

5.5 DEER

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	75	75	0
Beta-agonists	75	75	0
Phenolics	75	75	0
Nitrofurans	75	78	0
Antibiotics	75	76	0
Anticoccidials	25	26	0
Anthelmintics	75	77	0
Pesticides	75	78	1(a)
NSAIDs	25	26	0
1080	75	77	0
Heavy metals	25	25	0
Anticoagulants	15	15	0

(a) One detection of lufenuron above New Zealand standards³

5.6 HORSE

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	50	9*	0
Beta-agonists	50	9*	0
Phenolics	50	9*	0
Nitrofurans	50	9*	0
Nitroimidazoles	25	9*	0
Antibiotics	25	9*	0
Virginiamycin	25	9*	0
Anthelmintics	25	9*	0
NSAIDs	25	9*	0

* Horse slaughter for export human consumption was suspended in New Zealand during the sampling year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

5.7 WILD ANIMALS

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
1080	30	29*	0
Anticoagulants	30	27*	0
Heavy metals	20	26	3(a)

(a) Three detections of lead above New Zealand standards³.

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

5.8 FARMED SALMON

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	10	10	0
Phenolics	10	10	0
Nitrofurans	10	10	0
Nitroimidazoles	10	10	0
Antibiotics	20	20	0
Anthelmintics	20	20	0
Pesticides	20	20	0
Isoeugenol	20	19*	0
Heavy metals	10	10	0
Dyes	60	59*	0

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

5.9 OSTRICHES

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Beta-agonists	1	1	0
Nitrofurans	1	1	0
Nitroimidazoles	1	1	0
Anthelmintics	1	1	0
Pesticides	1	1	0

5.10 PIGS

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Beta-agonists	25	25	0
Nitrofurans	25	26	0
Nitroimidazoles	25	26	0
Antibiotics	25	25	0
Carbadox	25	25	0
Anticoccidials	25	26	0
Pesticides	25	26	1(a)
Anticoagulants	15	14*	0

(a) One detection of pirimiphos-methyl above New Zealand standards³.

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

5.11 POULTRY, TURKEYS & DUCKS

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Stilbenes, steroids and RALs	20	19*	0
Nitrofurans	20	22	0
Antibiotics	20	21	0
Anticoccidials	20	18*	0
Pesticides	20	21	0

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

5.12 HONEY

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ⁴
Phenolics	8	11	0
Nitrofurans	7	9	0
Antibiotics	39	40	0
Pesticides + neonicotinoids	24	27	0
Heavy metals	16	16	0
Amitraz	60	56*	0
Tutin	60	53*	0

* In 2016 / 2017 some randomly allocated samples were not able to be collected. Additional samples will be collected in 2017 / 2018 to make up the deficit.

5.13 ALPACA

A small number of alpacas are slaughtered for domestic consumption on a one-off basis. One sample was tested for pesticides and anthelmintics and no results above the New Zealand MPL were detected.

5.14 FISH

5.14.1 Wild caught sea fish and crustaceans

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Heavy metals	25	28	0

5.14.2 Fresh water eels

Substances	Planned	Completed	Positive > NZ Standards ³
Heavy metals	3	3	0
Polychlorinated dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs	3	3	0
Indicator PCBs	3	3	0
Indicator PAHs	3	4	0
Anticoagulants	3	3	0
Isoeugenol	3	3	0

⁴ Animal Products General Requirements for Export - 08/035 Contaminant Requirements for Bee Products for Export

5.15 SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

The surveillance programme of the NCRP tested samples from targeted animal material, animal products or animals considered to be at-risk for residues or contaminants greater than maximum levels supplied by persons on the MPI surveillance list.

5.15.1 Results of the Surveillance Programme

Substances	Cattle	Deer	Honey	Sheep	Wild Deer
Amitraz			5(f)		
Anticoccidials	1(a)				
Anthelmintics	1(b)			1(g)	
Antibiotics	2(c)				
Beta-agonists	3(d)				
Heavy metals					3(i)
Nitrofurans				1(h)	
Pesticides		5(e)			

- (a) One sample of cattle liver from one supplier on the MPI surveillance list (monensin) was tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (b) One sample of cattle liver from one supplier on the MPI surveillance list (abamectin) was tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (c) Two samples of cattle liver from two processors on the MPI surveillance list (tetracyclines) were tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (d) Three samples of cattle kidney from one processor on the MPI surveillance list (ractopamine) was tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (e) Five samples from one supplier on the MPI surveillance list (lufenuron) were tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (f) Five samples of honey from two suppliers on the MPI surveillance list (amitraz) were tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards⁴.
- (g) One sample of sheep liver from one supplier on the MPI surveillance list (abamectin, oxfendazole and levamisole) was tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (h) One sample of sheep liver from one supplier on the MPI surveillance list (semicarbazide) was tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.
- (i) Three samples wild deer meat from three suppliers on the MPI surveillance list (lead) were tested in 2016 / 2017. The results were compliant with the NZ standards³.

5.16 SPECIES VERIFICATION PROGRAMME

The test results verified there was no species substitution.

5.16.1 Results of the Species Verification Programme

Planned	Completed	Tested true to label
300	309	309

6 RESULTS ABOVE MAXIMUM LEVELS

6.1 SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS ABOVE MAXIMUM LEVELS

Eight results exceeded the New Zealand standards for maximum permissible levels of contaminants as specified in the Animal Products Notice: Contaminant Specifications.

Substance and amount detected (mg/kg)	Animal and animal product sampled	NZ Standard (mg/kg)	Codex Standard (mg/kg)
Meat programme			
Abamectin – 0.033	Cattle (liver)	0.015 ³	0.1 ⁵
Lead – 0.11	Wild deer (muscle)	0.01 ³	0.1 ⁶
Lead – 0.11	Wild deer (muscle)	0.01 ³	0.1 ⁶
Lead – 0.60	Wild deer (muscle)	0.01 ³	0.1 ⁶
Lufenuron – 0.040	Deer (fat)	0.01 ³	.7
Monensin – 0.021	Cattle (liver)	0.01 ³	0.1 ⁵
Oxyfluorfen – 0.048	Cattle (fat)	0.01 ³	.7
Pirimiphos-methyl – 0.011	Pig (fat)	0.01 ³	0.01 ⁷

6.2 MPI ACTIONS FOR TEST RESULTS ABOVE MAXIMUM LEVELS

6.2.1 Meat programme

6.2.1.1 Abamectin

One abamectin residue was detected in cattle above the New Zealand standard³. The amount of abamectin residue found did not pose a food safety risk.

Following random sampling and testing, and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. MPI examined the supplier declaration with respect to withholding period and treatments, conducted a telephone interview with the supplier. Also the agricultural compound product was returned to the manufacturer for quality testing.

The farm records showed the animal had been presented for primary processing outside of the withholding period following the last treatment with the registered agricultural compound. Animal were weighed before dosing and applicators dosage rates were confirmed. The manufacturer confirm the product used contained the active ingredient at formulated concentration. The cause of the detection is unclear and could be related to animal licking of the pour-on formulation.

The supplier was placed on the national surveillance list and further targeted testing did not show any reoccurrence of the original finding.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for abamectin in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.

³ FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards – Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) For Residues Of Veterinary Drugs In Foods CAC/MRL 2-2015 Updated as at the 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2015)

⁶ FAO/WHO Food Standards Codex Alimentarius: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed, Codex Stan 193-1995

⁷ FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards – Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides CAC/MRL 1

6.2.1.2 *Monensin*

One monensin residue was detected in a cow above the New Zealand standard³. The amount of monensin residue found did not pose a food safety risk.

Following random sampling, testing, and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. MPI examined the supplier declaration with respect to withholding period and treatments and conducted a telephone interview with the supplier.

The farm records showed the animal had been presented for primary processing outside of the withholding period however it was noted the product is registered with a nil withholding period. Dosage rates were reviewed and found to be appropriate for the herd size. The cause of the detection is unclear.

The supplier was placed on the national surveillance list and further targeted testing did not show any reoccurrence of the original finding.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for monensin in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.

6.2.1.3 *Lufenuron*

One lufenuron residue was detected in a deer above the New Zealand standard³. The amount of lufenuron residue found did not pose a food safety risk.

Following random sampling, testing and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. MPI examined the supplier declaration with respect to withholding period and treatments, and conducted a telephone interview with the supplier and an on-farm audit.

The on-farm audit found a paddock of kale the mob of animals had been grazing on prior to submission to the processor had been accidentally sprayed with the incorrect insecticide. There is no grazing withholding period stated on the agricultural compound product label. Otherwise, the on-farm audit showed good agricultural practices in evidence.

The supplier was placed on the national surveillance list and further targeted testing did not show any reoccurrence of the original finding.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for lufenuron in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.

6.2.1.4 *Oxyfluorfen*

One oxyfluorfen residue was detected in a cattle above the New Zealand standard³. The amount of oxyfluorfen residue found did not pose a food safety risk.

Following random sampling, testing and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. MPI examined the supplier declaration with respect to withholding period and treatments and conducted a telephone interview with the supplier. The supplier was found to have used a combination herbicide product as part of pasture renovation. They then grazed the affected animals on the sprayed pasture. No grazing withholding period was stated on the agricultural compound product label.

The supplier was placed on the national surveillance list and further targeted testing did not show any reoccurrence of the original finding.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for oxyfluorfen in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.

6.2.1.5 *Lead*

Three lead residues were detected in wild deer above the New Zealand standard³.

Following random sampling, testing and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. In each case the likely cause was fragments of lead shot used for the hunting of wild game.

The supplier was placed on the national surveillance list and further targeted testing did not show any reoccurrence of the original finding.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for lead in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.

6.2.1.6 *Pirimiphos-methyl*

Two pirimiphos-methyl residues were detected in pigs above the New Zealand standard³. The amount of pirimiphos-methyl found did not pose a food safety risk.

Following random sampling and testing, and reporting of the result, MPI conducted a trace back to the supplier. Examination of the supplier declaration with respect to withholding periods and treatments, and a telephone interview with the supplier was conducted. The cause was identified as likely resulting from grain feed treated with a pirimiphos-methyl fumigant. Pirimiphos-methyl has a registered use as a fumigant in grain silos to manage pests.

MPI will continue to undertake random monitoring for pirimiphos-methyl in the 2017 / 2018 sampling programme.