



Statement

March 29, 2012, via email

California Department of Food and Agriculture

“California law (FAC 32761.5) requires all bulk raw milk pickup tankers to be tested by for beta-lactam antibiotics prior to processing. Per an official memorandum (M-a-85), the U.S. FDA recognizes that six (6) beta-lactam drugs are widely used in treating disease in lactating dairy cattle and, therefore, are the most likely to cause a residue in milk if they are improperly used. The six beta-lactam type drugs are penicillin, amoxicillin, ampicillin, cloxacillin, ceftiofur, and cephalixin. FDA approved tests that are used to detect these drugs.”

Steve Lyle, Director of Public Affairs
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Statement

May 9, 2012, via email

“Industry personnel at processing plants collect a sample of milk from each bulk milk tanker as it arrives at the facility. The sample is then tested on-site by processing plant staff using FDA-approved methods. Persons collecting the samples from the bulk milk tankers must pass a written and practical exam and be licensed by CDFA. CDFA also evaluates and approves the on-site testing procedures being utilized and the personnel conducting the tests. A split-sample testing program where positive and negative samples prepared and distributed by CDFA for screening by industry labs is also used to monitor the proficiency of industry personnel. CDFA also conducts random quarterly testing of bulk milk tankers received at processing plants as another check on the effectiveness of the required industry testing procedures. Any tankers found positive for drug residues based on industry testing must be reported to CDFA and are condemned from human food use. This state regulatory oversight of bulk milk tanker testing by the industry is the same for all 50-states per the requirements of the FDA Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.”

Steve Lyle, Director of Public Affairs
California Department of Food and Agriculture