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Don't Contaminate Milk with Drugs or Pesticides

R. L. Adams, B. J. Liska, W. J. Stadelman and G. E. Lehker, Animal Sciences and Entomology Departments

How to Keep From Contaminating Your Milk

Milk may become contaminated through the misuse of drugs or pesticides. The drug or pesticide gets into the milk after having been consumed in the feed, absorbed through the skin, inhaled by the cow or in the case of antibiotics after having been injected into the muscle or infused directly into the udder.

The best way to avoid illegal drug residues is to follow label directions on drugs and feeds. Do not mix the milk of cows being treated with antibiotics with your regular milk supply until the required time period has passed following the last antibiotic injection. Feed medicated feeds only for the purpose and to the type of cattle indicated on the feed tag label. Do not mix a drug or chemical into feed unless authorized under state and federal law. Never feed or use a combination of drugs which have not been cleared with FDA even though the individual drugs have been cleared.

Prevent contamination with pesticides by always using pesticides that are currently registered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use on dairy cattle. Use them exactly as prescribed. Do not use pesticides not recommended by the Indiana Cooperative Extension Service or by the USDA. Even when using approved pesticides, do not spray or dust or allow the

pesticide to drift and contaminate the feed or water. Do not treat the cattle <u>unless</u> the insecticide being used is specifically approved and registered for that purpose.

Know the history of feed used for your cattle. Do not feed any feed that has been treated with an insecticide which will contaminate your milk.

What Could Happen to You if Your Milk Becomes Contaminated

Failure to comply with the warnings and recommendations printed on feed labels and drug and pesticide containers can result in illegal residues in milk. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. It matters little if your products become contaminated because of ignorance of the laws, disregard of the laws, or simply by mistake. If your milk is contaminated, it can be seized and destroyed. You can be fined or even imprisoned. Or any combination of such actions could be taken against you.

Where to Obtain The "Latest" on Drugs and Pesticides Which Can Be Safely Used and the Proper Levels to Use

Be up to date. Use only those drugs and pesticides that are <u>presently</u> legal. Use them only in the way permitted at the <u>present</u> time.

Drugs

The most up to date information on the proper drugs to use, the proper levels and

Dairy Section • Animal Sciences Department

combinations to use for any specific purpose may be obtained from:

- 1. Feedstuffs' Feed Additive Compendium, Feedstuffs, 2501 Wayzota Blvd., P.O. Box 67, Minneapolis 40, Minnesota. An excellent publication (not free).
- 2. The Drug Company that manufactures the specific drug in which you are interested.
- 3. <u>FDA</u> write to the Supervising Inspector, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Indiana citizens who live south of U.S. Route 40 - Write to: 1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

Indiana citizens who live north of U.S. Route 40 - Write to: 1560 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit 7, Michigan.

4. The Federal Register - Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office,

Washington, D.C. This is the most up to date information but it is very voluminous and difficult to interpret.

Pesticides

- 1. The latest copy of Purdue University Mimeo E-12 "How to Control Flies in Barns and on Cattle," E-13, "Cattle Lice," and E-14 "How to Control Cattle Grubs." These publications are available at all County Extension Offices and they are revised whenever a change is made in the use of any pesticide.
- 2. The Pesticide Company which manufactures the specific pesticide in which you are interested.
 - 3. FDA
 - The Federal Register

Don't Contaminate Your Milk

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