

# Meat, Poultry Residue Violations Show Drop

Second quarter meat and poultry residue violations fell to 1.3 percent of samples tested, the lowest rate in more than a year and a half, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported last week.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said there were 61 violations found in the 4,461 samples analyzed for the quarter ending in June.

They added the rate is not yet significant, because a one-quarter return does not take in all the annual variations that could cause a change.

This compared with 103 violations found in the 4,724 samples tested during the first quarter of this calendar year. In 1973 the violation rate was 3, 1.9, 1.9 and 1.9 percent by quarter respectively.

APHIS inspectors take meat and poultry samples, which then are analyzed in laboratories throughout the country for residues of

drugs, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals. The program is part of the National Residue Monitoring program through which APHIS helps to safeguard the wholesomeness of the 3 billion poultry, 75 million swine, 31.5 million cattle and 9.5 million sheep and goats slaughtered annually for human consumption.

Residues above tolerances or guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and enforced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are in violation.

By species, calves incurred the largest number of violations in the quarter, with 23. This compared with 30 violations in calves in the first quarter. Violations for other species were cattle, 13; swine, 12; chickens, 7; turkeys, 5, and sheep and goats, 1.

Antibiotics led in the number of violations by residue type with 30, followed by chlorinated hydrocarbons, 14, and sulfa

drugs, 11.

When residues in violation of tolerances or guidelines are found, the names and addresses of owners are referred to the FDA or EPA for followup action.

The National Residue Monitoring program incorporates three steps, beginning with random sampling nationwide. When violations are found, surveillance sampling is undertaken to determine the cause and extent of the problem. In the final phase, pre-testing of herds or flocks with histories of violations is required to protect the public from meat and poultry with residues.

Ten warning letters were issued in the second quarter this year, compared with 22 the first quarter. Warning letters are sent to owners when residues are found in animal or fowl tissue approaching 80 percent of the tolerance or guideline.



Members of the Pennsylvania FFA Chapter Livestock Team were greeted in Kansas City by Mr. George H. Kyd, (left), Vice President and Director of Public Relations, Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Missouri. The team was one of 45 FFA Livestock teams participating in the National FFA Livestock Contest at the National FFA Convention in

Kansas City, Missouri. Team members Jay Bomgardner, Jim Southard, and Steve Donough were accompanied by their Advisor-Coach Glenn Spangler of Manheim. The National FFA Livestock Contest is a Special Project of the National FFA Foundation sponsored by the Ralston Purina Company.

### American Viewpoints



*"So nigh is grandeur to our dust, So near is God to man—When duty whispers low 'Thou must,' The youth replies, 'I can.'"*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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