



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health



**National Residue Survey
2006–2007**



OVERVIEW

The National Residue Survey (NRS) was originally established in 1961 to measure pesticide residues in exported meat. Today, NRS has expanded to test for residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and environmental contaminants in 11 meat products, honey, egg, three fish products, 14 grains, pulses and oilseeds, and five horticultural products. The compliance rates shown in the tables are calculated as a percentage of the total number of samples complying with relevant standards.

NRS operates on full cost recovery, and is funded principally by levies from participating industries. The Australian Government provides funding for national and international residue commitments that provide benefits for the community, for industry and for government programmes. In 2006–2007, total expenses for NRS were \$9.370 million, of which \$0.460 million was provided by the government. For more details see our website.



Meat products

Through random monitoring, 11 meat products were tested for antibiotics, anthelmintics, hormones, growth promotants, pesticides and environmental contaminants. The largest numbers of samples came from cattle, sheep and pig. Overall compliance was 99.81%.

Commodity	Samples	Analyses	Compliance (%)
Camel	15	325	100.00
Cattle	5 290	80 288	99.96
Deer	115	1 890	100.00
Goat	251	3 953	99.20
Horse	140	2 134	100.00
Kangaroo	101	2 431	100.00
Pig	2 871	28 680	99.90
Poultry	330	7 212	100.00
Ratite (ostrich)	100	1 525	100.00
Sheep	4 486	52 745	99.58
Wild boar	120	2 420	99.17
Total	13 819	183 603	



Egg

From the 75 egg samples and total of 1 025 analyses undertaken, residue testing results showed 97.33% compliance with the relevant Australian Standards.



Honey

During the reporting period 92 honey samples were subject to 1 244 analyses in all, including those for antibiotics and environmental metals. All samples conformed to Australian Standards.



Fish

Samples from eight exported wildcaught seafood products from 13 species (103 samples and 643 analyses) were tested for persistent organic pollutants, environmental contaminants and heavy metals. Residue testing results showed 99.03% compliance with the relevant Australian Standards.



Grains, pulses and oilseeds

Fourteen plant commodities were sampled and tested for pesticides, fumigants, organochlorines and environmental contaminants. Overall, residue testing results showed 99.64% compliance. All samples from exported grains were 100% compliant.

Commodity	Samples	Analyses	Compliance (%)
Barley	569	29 819	99.65
Canola	185	9 214	98.38
Chickpea	8	408	100.00
Faba bean	8	404	100.00
Field pea	41	2 116	100.00
Lupin	39	1 925	100.00
Oat	38	1 930	94.74
Sorghum	63	3 189	98.41
Triticale	1	49	100.00
Wheat (grain)	2 054	103 764	99.85
Wheat (bran)	162	8 070	99.38
Wheat (flour)	156	7 773	100.00
Wheat (durum)	5	248	100.00
Wheat (semolina)	6	297	100.00
Total	3 335	169 206	



Horticulture

Five horticultural products were tested for pesticides, physiological modifiers and environmental contaminants. The overall compliance rate with Australian Standards was 98.74%.

Commodity	Samples	Analyses	Compliance (%)
Apple	455	18 200	98.02
Blueberry	30	156	100.00
Macadamia nut	118	1 968	100.00
Onion	98	2 897	100.00
Pear	91	3 640	98.90
Total	792	26 861	



Laboratory performance evaluation and proficiency testing

NRS contracts analytical laboratories to perform the relevant residue analyses. Laboratories are proficiency tested in order to ensure the validity of analytical results. NRS continues to be an accredited provider of proficiency testing schemes. Accreditation ensures that the NRS proficiency testing system is recognised within the laboratory community as meeting internationally accepted standards and having the ability to establish the technical competence of participating laboratories.

Laboratories are selected through the Australian Government tendering process on the basis of their proficiency, accreditation and value for money. Contracted laboratories are generally required to take part in NRS proficiency testing activities. Current contracts began on 1 July 2006 and will run to 30 June 2008. Preparation for the next tendering process commenced in mid-2007 for the contracts that will run from 2008-2011.

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