



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

National Residue Survey 2013–14

Kangaroo



Kangaroo

The program

The Australian kangaroo industry participates in various National Residue Survey (NRS) residue monitoring programs. These programs assure customers about the quality of Australian kangaroo meat and support the state/territory licensing of domestic processing facilities. Kangaroo programs include random monitoring and ensure the kangaroo industry meets the export certification requirements of its overseas markets.

Sampling

The NRS reviews all sampling plans annually in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the relevant participating industry.

Samples are collected by authorised government officers at export abattoirs and by quality control staff at domestic abattoirs. Once collected, samples are freighted from abattoir collection points via the NRS receipt and dispatch facility to contract laboratories for analysis.

Sample collection rates are either based on Australian production levels, or are requirements set by overseas export markets. In 2013–14, a total of 50 kangaroo samples were analysed for residues of pesticides, veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants.

Chemical screen

NRS residue monitoring programs screen for chemicals that are used in Australian animal production systems, as well as those that are no longer used in Australia but may be important for international trade, such as organochlorine pesticides. The monitoring screens and chemical groups, number of samples and rates of compliance included in the 2013–14 NRS kangaroo program are listed in Table 1.



Results

The chemical screen results are compared to the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and contaminant levels set out in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* and the *Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority MRL standard*.

In 2013–14, the overall compliance rate for kangaroo with the relevant Australian Standards was 100 per cent. Over the past 10 years the Australian kangaroo industry has shown a high degree of compliance with Australian Standards, as shown in Table 2. This highlights Australia's excellent residue and contaminant status and helps maintain the reputation and integrity of Australian kangaroo meat in international and domestic markets.

TABLE 1 The 2013–14 NRS kangaroo monitoring program chemical groups tested and rates of compliance

Group	Chemicals	Samples	Compliance (%)
Agricultural chemicals, animal treatments and environmental contaminants			
Fungicides, Herbicides and Insecticides	Carbamates, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, organochlorines, organophosphates, persistent organic pollutants, pyrethroids and other	25	100
Environmental Contaminants	Metals	25	100

TABLE 2 The NRS kangaroo monitoring program overall compliance with Australian Standards

Year	2004 –05	2005 –06	2006 –07	2007 –08	2008 –09	2009 –10	2010 –11	2011 –12	2012 –13	2013 –14
Samples	100	97	101	56	55	55	49	53	50	50
Compliance (%)	100	100	100	98.2	100	100	100	100	100	100

Traceback

In the event that a kangaroo sample contains a residue above the Australian Standard, a traceback investigation is undertaken to identify the cause of contamination. Once the cause has been established, the responsible state/territory agency will provide advice to the producer to prevent future recurrence and regulatory action may be taken.

All traceback activities and findings are reported to the NRS and when appropriate, the findings are forwarded to participating industries and government authorities, such as the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for consideration during its chemical review process. Providing feedback to participating industries is important for improving chemical use and on-farm agricultural practices.

Laboratory performance

The NRS contracts laboratories to analyse meat samples for residues of pesticides, veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants. The laboratories are selected through the

Australian Government tendering process on the basis of their proficiency, accreditation against international standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2005) and value for money.

These laboratories are proficiency tested by the NRS to ensure the validity of their analytical results and technical competence. The NRS has been accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities as a proficiency test provider since July 2005. The NRS proficiency testing system is recognised within the laboratory community as meeting internationally accepted standards (ISO/IEC 17043:2010).

International maximum residue limits

The NRS maintains a database of international MRLs for countries that are major export markets for Australian primary produce. The database can be accessed from the NRS website.

The National Residue Survey

The NRS facilitates residue monitoring in animal and plant products to manage the risk of chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian food products. In doing so, NRS programs support Australia's food industry and primary producers by confirming Australia's status as a producer of clean food and facilitating access to domestic and export markets.

The NRS is an operational unit within the Department of Agriculture, funded by Australia's primary industries through levies or through contracted direct funding. Exporting animal industries, the grains industry and various horticultural industries currently participate in NRS residue monitoring programs.

All NRS programs are underpinned by an ISO 9001:2008 quality management system and form part of a national pesticide and veterinary medicine residue management framework. These programs assist primary industries identify potential residue problems including failure to comply with good agricultural practices, and can indicate where follow-up action is needed to maintain Australia's reputation as a supplier of clean produce.



General enquiries

Phone 1800 420 919

Fax (02) 6272 4023

Postal address

National Residue Survey

GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia



agriculture.gov.au/nrs

Email nrs@agriculture.gov.au

MRL database

agriculture.gov.au/nrsmrl

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