



National Residue Survey 2014–15

Kangaroos



The Kangaroo Programme

The Kangaroo Programme involves the testing of Australian kangaroo products for a range of pesticides and environmental contaminants. The programme is funded by the National Residue Survey (NRS) component of the kangaroo levy, which is 3 cents per kangaroo carcase.

The programme supports industry quality assurance initiatives and ensures that kangaroo exports satisfy Australian export certification and importing country requirements.

Sample collection

The number of samples collected is based on Australian production levels and/or overseas export market requirements.

The NRS sends sample collection requests to abattoirs specifying the product (matrix) required for collection, and the period during which it has to be taken. Generally the matrix selected for analysis is the one that is expected to contain the highest concentration of a residue. The matrix may be inedible, and does not necessarily represent the part most likely to be eaten.

Animals are randomly selected along the slaughter chain and samples are collected at export abattoirs by authorised government officers and at domestic abattoirs by quality control staff. Once collected, the samples are freighted overnight directly to the NRS receival and dispatch facility, where they are sorted into batches and sent to a contract laboratory for analysis.

Key points

- The Australian kangaroo industry continues to demonstrate a high degree of compliance with Australian Standards.
- Excellent industry participation and engagement for over 10 years.
- National Residue Survey is certified to ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

TABLE 1 Chemical screens for the 2014–15 Kangaroo Programme

Chemical screen	Chemical group	Analytes	Samples collected	Compliance rates (%)
Agricultural chemicals, animal treatments and environmental contaminants	Fungicides, herbicides, environmental contaminants and insecticides	Approximately 79 analytes including carbamates, fungicides, organochlorines, organophosphates, persistent organic pollutants and pyrethroids	25	100
Metals		Approximately 5 analytes including antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury	25	100

Chemical screen

Chemical screens are developed in consultation with the Australian kangaroo industry and take into account overseas market requirements and chemicals that are registered for use in Australian production systems.

In 2014–15, a total of 50 kangaroo samples were collected, screened for a range of pesticide and environmental contaminants, and results were compared with the relevant Australian Standards. The samples collected and compliance rates are shown in Table 1.

Laboratory selection and performance

The NRS contracts laboratories to analyse meat samples for chemical residues and environmental contaminants. 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.

Contracted 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.

International export markets

The NRS maintains a database of international maximum residue limits (MRLs) for countries that are major export markets for Australian animal and plant products.

All kangaroo results are checked for compliance with Australian standards and relevant international MRLs. The database can be accessed at edaff.gov.au/NRSMRLEExternal/Public/Disclaimer.aspx.

Results

In 2014–15, the overall compliance rate was 100 per cent. Over the past five 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 products in international and domestic markets.



TABLE 2 The overall compliance rates for the Kangaroo Programme over the past 5 years

Years	Compliance rates (%)
2010–11	100
2011–12	100
2012–13	100
2013–14	100
2014–15	100

National Residue Survey

The NRS facilitates residue monitoring in animal and plant commodities to manage the risk of chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian food products. In doing so, NRS programmes 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 and Water Resources, funded by Australia's primary industries through levies or through contracted direct funding. Exporting animal industries, the grains industry and various horticultural industries participate in NRS residue monitoring programmes.

All NRS programmes comply with an ISO 9001:2008 quality management system and form part of a national pesticide and veterinary medicine residue management framework. These programmes 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.



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