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ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR
No. 07
Series of 2024

SUBJECT : NATIONAL VETERINARY DRUG RESIDUE SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PLAN (NVRSMP) FOR ANIMAL FEEDS, EGGS, HONEY PRODUCTION, AND RAW MILK

WHEREAS, Section 16, Republic Act (RA) No. 10611, otherwise known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013", declares that the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall be responsible for the development and enforcement of food safety standards and regulations for food in the primary production and postharvest stages of the food supply chain. It shall monitor and ensure that the relevant requirements of the law are complied with by the farmers, fisher folks, and food business operators;

WHEREAS, section 16 (a) states that the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall have the food safety regulatory functions for food derived from animals, including eggs and honey production;

WHEREAS, section 16 (b) states that the National Dairy Authority (NDA) shall have the food safety standards and regulations for food in the primary production and postharvest stages of milk;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No 1556, or the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act, mandates the BAI to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, labeling, advertising, distribution, and sale of livestock and poultry feeds;

WHEREAS, Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 24 series of 2009 was issued to implement the National Veterinary Drug Residues Control Program in Food, covering the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, control, and rational use of veterinary drugs in food-producing animals;

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 14 series of 2006 was issued to implement the National Veterinary Drug Residues Control Program and Creation of the Inter-Agency Committee to ensure compliance to international standards on residues of veterinary drugs in food and rational use in feeds;

WHEREAS, Philippine National Standard No. 60:2008 Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) was issued to identify and establish management practices to minimize risk from internal to external factors through traceability and certified resources of food from farm to table for the production of safe and quality foods;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Standard No. 185:2022 for Honey Product Specifications and Philippine National Standard No. 186:2016 Code of Good Beekeeping Practices adopt the Codex Standard for Honey and set out the general principles of good practice, ensuring

that the final products are safe and fit for human and animal consumption, and suit the production, practices, and tropical climate in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Standard No.48:2022 Veterinary Drug in Foods: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) covers the MRLs of veterinary drugs established for livestock and poultry, including their products such as eggs and raw milk, honey, and fish and fishery products, and providing information on banned veterinary drugs in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Standard No. 35:2017 Revised Standard for Table Eggs was issued in response to the need to formulate and enforce standards of quality that will ensure human health and safety and efficiency in the consumer consumption, marketing, and trade of agricultural and fisheries products for export and import. This standard covers table eggs, which are the product of domesticated chicken sold by wholesalers, retailers, supermarkets, groceries, and exports, providing a common understanding of the essential quality factors, classification, grading, labeling, packing sampling, and hygienic handling of table eggs;

WHEREAS, Philippine National Standard No. 209:2017 Code of Hygienic Practice for Table Eggs adopts the Codex Standard on Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg products, describing the specific considerations for food hygiene and safety associated with all methods of primary production, grading, sorting up to distribution of table eggs;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture-National Dairy Authority (DA-NDA) Administrative Circular no. 4, series of 2019, or "The Dairy Safety Regulations," provides the guidelines, standards, and rules in regulating milk from primary production to postharvest handling in the purview of food safety;

WHEREAS, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, on its 32nd session, approved the adoption of the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programme Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals.

NOW THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR., Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, with the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Department Circular on the National Veterinary Drug Residue Surveillance and Monitoring Plan (NVRSMP) for Animal Feeds, Eggs, Honey Production, and Raw Milk.

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Circular is for the implementing agencies, particularly the BAI and NDA, to have a comprehensive Residue Surveillance and Monitoring System in compliance with the Food Safety Act and their respective mandates to ensure compliance at the point of production of feeds, eggs, raw honey, and raw milk.

This Circular shall also address one of the requirements of our international partners and also our local markets. This Circular shall cover the monitoring of veterinary drugs in the primary production and postproduction/postharvest stages of the livestock and poultry industry, honey production, and dairy industry.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Circular, words, terms, and phrases as used herein shall have the same definition as provided for under RA No. 10611, RA No. 3720 as amended by RA No. 9711, RA No. 1556, RA No. 1071, and other existing laws, rules and regulations.

III. GUIDELINES

A. Institutional Arrangements

1. For the purpose of the effective implementation of this Circular, the focal for the DA Veterinary Drug Residue Technical Working Group (VDRTWG) shall oversee this Circular and ensure that the plan is implemented and updated regularly. The DA VDRTWG shall conduct a regular review of the surveillance and monitoring plan and submit reports on the findings, including recommendations to the DA Secretary.

2. The BAI shall be responsible for the implementation of the National Veterinary Drug Residue Surveillance and Monitoring Plan for feeds, eggs, and raw honey. In the initial implementation (food safety control program), the following are the industry/operating units to be included:
   a. Egg samples shall be collected from the BAI GAP-certified farms;
   b. Honey samples shall be collected from participating bee farms; and
   c. Animal feed samples shall be collected from BAI-licensed feed establishments.

3. The NDA shall be responsible for the implementation of the National Veterinary Drug Residue Surveillance and Monitoring Plan for raw milk. In the initial implementation (food safety control program), the raw milk samples shall be randomly sampled from Dairy Business Operators (DBOs) who have secured and have valid NDA-License to Operate (LTO) at the time of effectivity of this Circular.

4. The Food Business Operators (FBOs) shall allow duly authorized officers of the BAI and/or NDA (competent authority) to enter, assist in sample collection, and conduct surveillance and monitoring of veterinary drug residues.

Accordingly, the following general guidelines shall apply:

B. Surveillance and Monitoring Plan

1. Source Samples

a. Samples collected for analysis of residues of veterinary drugs shall be in accordance with the approved Surveillance and Monitoring Plan of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and National Dairy Authority (NDA).

b. Egg samples shall be collected from GAHP Certified Layer Farms and egg producers that signify interest in exporting their products. The collection of samples shall be carried out by the GAHP Inspectors

c. Feed ingredients of animal origin and finished feeds shall be collected from BAI Licensed Feed Establishments by AFVDBCD Inspectors.

d. Honey samples shall be collected from BAI Apiary and apiaries that signified interest in exporting their products. The BAI Honeybee Program shall collect the samples.

e. Raw milk samples, the NDA Dairy Safety Officers or NDA authorized personnel shall collect the samples. DBOs may submit samples through or as assisted by their Dairy Safety Compliance Officers (DSCO) if the latter is a different person from the DBO.

2. **Monitored Veterinary Drugs and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)**
The BAI and NDA shall be guided by the Philippine National Standard PNS/BAFS 48:2015 ICS 67.020 for the Maximum Residue Limits for veterinary drug residues in food. For the initial implementation of the NVDRSMP, the following drugs are identified for sampling and monitoring:

TYPE OF DRUGS	DRUG GROUP	DRUG
Prohibited or unauthorized pharmacologically active substances	Chloramphenicol (CAP)	Chloramphenicol (CAP)
	Quinolone	Sarafloxacin, Difloxacin, Ofloxacin, Enrofloxaxin, Danofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin, Flumequin, Lomefloxacin, Naladixic acid, Ofloxacin, Perfloxacin, Orbifloxacin
	Beta-agonist	Salbutamol
	Nitrofuran	Nitrofurazone, Furazolidone, Furaltadone, Nitrofurantoin
Pharmacologically active substances authorized for use	Tetracycline	Oxytetracycline, Tetracycline, Chlortetracyline, 4-epi-cholrtetracyline Doxycycline
	Sulfonomide	Sulfacetamide, Sulfachlorpyridazine, Sulfadiazine, Sulfadimethoxine Sulfadoxine , Sulfaethoxypyridazine , Sulfamerazine , Sulfamethizole, Sulfadimidine, (Sulfamethazine) , Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfamethoxypyridazine, Sulfapyridine, Sulfaquinoxaline, Sulfathiozole, Sulfisoxazole
	Beta-lactam	Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Cefacetrile, Cefalexin, Cefalonium, Cefazolin, Cefoperazone, Cefquinome, Ceftiobur and its Metabolites, Cefuroxime, Cephapirin, Cloxacillin , Dicloxacillin , Oxacillin, Penicillin G

3. **Sampling Design/Requirements**

The BAI and NDA shall be guided by the following sampling design/requirements on the implementation of the monitoring program and testing methods:

a. General Principle: The duly authorized officers of the BAI and NDA must ensure that appropriate mechanisms are implemented to prevent possible bias occurring in both the selection and taking of samples should be put in place. Ideally, samples should be taken before animals and/or products are commingled with animals or products from other suppliers.

b. Sampling Strategies: The competent authorities may refer to the Annex A Sampling Strategies and Annex B Sampling of Commodities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC/GL 71-2009 as a guide.

c. Institutional Arrangements for sampling and testing

1) The BAI and NDA shall issue a list of farms/operating units identified for sample collection at the start of the year.
2) The duly authorized officers of the BAI and NDA shall be responsible for the collection, recording, storage, and transportation of the samples to the BAI Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD) and/or NDA Milk Quality Assurance and Product Development Division (MQAPDD)-Central Office Laboratory.
3) All expenses related to the NVRSMP, including laboratory testing, shall be borne by the BAI and/or NDA.
4) The list of veterinary drugs (such as antibiotics) to be monitored annually shall be determined by the BAI and NDA, based on science-based risk analysis or assessment. The competent authorities may select or remove the veterinary drugs to be monitored and tested, as deemed necessary.

d. Specific Sampling Design/Requirements for Eggs:

1) Competent authorities must take each sample in such a way that it is always possible to trace it back to the farm of origin of the eggs.
2) The samples shall be collected from the primary production to the post-production side of the manufacturing chain.
3) The sample size shall be a representative sample of the production.
4) Laboratory samples shall be at least 12 eggs coming from the composite sample.
5) Samples collected shall be submitted to the BAI Chemical and Feed Analysis Section (CFAS) of the Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD) for analysis.

Table 1. Antibiotics Monitoring Plan

Antibiotic Group	Antibiotic	Frequency	Test Method
Tetracycline	Oxytetracycline (OTC), Tetracycline , Chlortetracyline (CTC), 4-epi-cholrtetracyline Doxyclycine (Dox)	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening,

			Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)- Confirmatory
Sulphonamide	Sulfacetamide, Sulfachlorpyridazine, Sulfadiazine, Sulfadimethoxine Sulfadoxine , Sulfaethoxypyridazine , Sulfamerazine , Sulfamethizole, Sulfadimidine, (Sulfamethazine) , Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfamethoxypyridazine, Sulfapyridine, Sulfaquinoxaline, Sulfathiozole, Sulfisoxazole	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)- Confirmatory
Quinolone[a]	Sarafloxacin, Difloxacin, Ofloxacin, Enrofloxaxin, Danofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)- Confirmatory
Chloramphenicol*	Chloramphenicol	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)- Confirmatory
Nitrofuran*	Nitrofurazone, Furazolidone, Furaltadone, Nitrofurantoin	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass

			Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory

***Banned substances**

A.2 Honey

1) Competent authorities must take each honey sample in such a way that it is always possible to trace it back to the origin of the honey.
2) The samples shall be collected from the primary production to the post-production side of the manufacturing chain.
3) The sample size shall be a representative sample of the production
4) Laboratory samples shall be at least 100mL coming from the composite sample.
5) Samples collected shall be submitted to the BAI Chemical and Feed Analysis Section (CFAS) of the Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD) for analysis.

Table 2. Antibiotics Monitoring Plan

Antibiotic Group	Antibiotic	Frequency	Test Method
Tetracycline	Oxytetracycline (OTC), Tetracycline, Chlortetracyline (CTC), 4-epi-cholrtetracyline Doxyclycine (Dox)	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory
Chloramphenicol*	Chloramphenicol	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory

A.3 Animal Feeds

1) Each sample (grower and finisher) must be taken by competent authorities in such a way that is always possible to trace back to the manufacturer.
2) The samples shall be collected from the primary production to the post-production side of the manufacturing chain.
3) The sample size shall be a representative sample of the production
4) Laboratory samples shall be at least 1 kg coming from the composite sample.
5) Samples collected shall be submitted to the BAI Chemical and Feed Analysis Section (CFAS) of the Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD) for analysis

Table 3. Antibiotics Monitoring Plan

Antibiotic Group/ Drugs	Antibiotic/ Drugs	Frequency	Test Method
Tetracycline	Oxytetracycline (OTC), Tetracycline, Chlortetracyline (CTC), 4-epi-cholrtetracyline Doxyclycine (Dox)	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory
Quinolone[a]	Sarafloxacin, Difloxacin, Ofloxacin, Enrofloxaxin, Danofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory
Chloramphenicol*	Chloramphenicol	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory
Nitrofuran*	Nitrofurazone, Furazolidone, Furaltadone, Nitrofurantoin	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory
Beta agonist	Salbutamol	Quarterly	High Performance Liquid

			Chromatography (HPLC)-Screening, Liquid Chromatography tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)-Confirmatory

A.4 Raw Milk

1) Competent authorities must take each raw milk sample in such a way that it is always possible to trace it back to the producer.
2) Samples may be collected from the primary production to the postharvest handling portion of the supply chain.
3) The sample size shall be a representative sample of the production.
4) Laboratory samples shall be at least 500 ml coming from the bulk milk tank.
5) Samples collected shall be submitted to NDA-Central Office Laboratory or to NDA Regional Department Laboratories where analysis is available.

The table below provides the contaminant residue monitoring plan to be implemented by NDA, subject to changes based on current food safety, antibiotic residue, and antimicrobial resistance regulatory and testing requirements.

Table 4. Contaminant Residue Monitoring Plan

Antibiotic Group	Antibiotic		Frequency	Test Method
Beta-lactam	Amoxicillin Ampicillin Cefacetrile Cefalexin Cefalonium Cefazolin Cefoperazone Cefquinome	Ceftiobur and its Metabolites Cefuroxime Cephapirin Cloxacillin Dicloxacillin Oxacillin Penicillin G	Quarterly	Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) -screening method LC-MS/MS (confirmatory method)
Sulfa drugs	Sulfacetamide Sulfachlorpyridazine Sulfadiazine Sulfadimethoxine Sulfadoxine Sulfaethoxypyridazine Sulfamerazine Sulfamethizole Sulfadimidine	(Sulfamethazine) Sulfamethoxazole Sulfamethoxypyridazine Sulfapyridine Sulfaquinoxaline Sulfathiozole Sulfisoxazole		
Quinolone	Ciprofloxacin Danofloxacin Enrofloxacin Flumequin Lomefloxacin Marbofloxacin	Naladixic Acid Ofloxacin Norfloxacin Perfloxacin Orbifloxacin		
Tertacycline	Chlortetracycline Doxycycline	Oxytetracycline Tetracycline		

3. Laboratory Testing and Result Interpretation

a. The laboratory test methods used for the NVRSMP shall be based on the BAI and NDA's existing laboratory procedures.
b. The BAI and NDA shall work on securing their testing laboratories to be accredited for ISO/IEC 17025 and have a validated method/s both for screening and confirmatory tests for veterinary drug residues.
c. The BAI and NDA laboratories may use laboratory screening/testing methods based on international standards and/or trading partner requirements such as the European Union (EU).
d. All positive samples from screening methods shall be confirmed using any available validated confirmatory methods of any government laboratory.
e. Test results shall be discussed by the VDRTWG, especially for non-complying samples so recommendations shall be made.

4. Regulatory Action (Reporting System, Investigation, Measures in case of non-compliance)

a. Copy of the test results shall be provided to the respective focal persons from the BAI Veterinary Drug Residue TWG and NDA Milk Quality Assurance and Product Development Division (MQAPDD)-Central Office Laboratory for record, monitoring, and safekeeping.
b. All test results shall be informed to the respective FBOs, through communication letters/emails, together with the test results shall be provided by the BAI and NDA to all FBOs.
c. For identified or detected non-compliance, the provisions of Section 8. Regulatory Action and Section 10. Penalties and Sanctions of the DA AO No. 24 series of 2009 shall be implemented.

IV. REPEALING AND SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

The provision of existing Orders, Circulars, Rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of the Circular are hereby modified, revoked, or repealed accordingly.

If any portion or provision of this Circular is declared unconstitutional, the other portion or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby must continue in full force and in effect.

V. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect fifteen calendar (15) days after its filing with the National Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines Law Center or a newspaper of national circulation.

Done this 26th day of September, 2024.

FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.
Secretary

DA-CO-USECL-AO20240807-00006