



March 2, 2011

Ms. Cary Frye
VP, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs
International Dairy Foods Association
1250 H Street, NW, Ste. 900
Washington, DC 20005

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO FDA LISTENING SESSION ON MILK RESIDUES

Dear Cary:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is hosting a listening session with representatives of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to assist in obtaining stakeholder input on possible approaches to addressing concerns raised by FDA regarding potential drug residues in milk. CDFA would like to invite a representative of your organization to participate in a meeting with FDA, state regulatory personnel, and members of the dairy industry on **March 24, 2011** in Sacramento, California.

Meeting Goal: To provide input to FDA on practical approaches to answering the public health question of whether practices on dairy farms that have led to drug residues in tissues of slaughtered dairy cows also cause drug residues in milk.

Questions for Discussion:

- It has been suggested that FDA consider a blinded sampling approach that would enable collection of data without creating uncertainty about the regulatory status of the milk or the dairy farm. Is such an approach feasible and would it adequately address concerns raised by both industry and state regulators?
- Are there other approaches that would enable collection of milk sampling data aimed at the public health question of concern without causing significant disruption to the dairy industry?

Participants should come prepared to discuss the questions above including ideas on specific logistical details and the pros and cons of any suggested alternative approaches.



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Meeting Location: Sacramento; Specific location is to be determined. A follow-up notice will be sent with more detailed information.

Date and Time: March 24, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

An invitation to participate in this FDA listening session has also been sent to milk regulatory agencies and industry organizations in neighboring western states. Please be aware that meeting room space is limited. We therefore ask that attendance be limited to no more than one or two representatives from each invited organization. Please RSVP to Ms. Dana Venable at dvenable@cdfa.ca.gov or (916) 654-0881.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. We look forward to your participation, and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stephen Beam, Ph.D.
Chief, Milk and Dairy Food Safety

cc: Dr. Annette Whiteford, State Veterinarian
CDFA