

Science and Technology



Pesticide Data Program

Helping ensure consumer confidence in their food

USDA's Pesticide Data Program (PDP) is a national monitoring and database program for pesticide residues in food. Using sound statistical and modern laboratory methods, the PDP collects pesticide residue data on a wide variety of domestic and imported foods with an emphasis on the foods most likely consumed by infants and children.

For more than 30 years, PDP has monitored America's food supply. The PDP's highly trained personnel manage the sampling, testing, and reporting of pesticide residue data, working collaboratively with State agriculture departments and other Federal agencies. The data consistently show that 99 percent of sampled products have residues below the legal limit established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Every year PDP adds to its growing online database of more than 47 million results and publishes an annual report. The publicly available PDP database is among the most comprehensive sources for pesticide residues in foods in the world.

Pesticide Facts

- *Pesticide residues* are pesticides that may remain in or on food after they are applied to a food crop.
- The legal limit of any pesticide left on food is a *tolerance*. Tolerances are established by the U.S. EPA.
- Pesticide use is strictly controlled in the United States. PDP works with the EPA to monitor pesticide residue levels found in food.

Agricultural Products Tested by the PDP

USDA and EPA work together to identify foods to be tested on a rotating basis. PDP tests both fresh and processed fruit and vegetables, grains, dairy, and other specialty food items such as honey, corn syrup, infant formula, and nuts for pesticide residues. Over 130 commodities have been tested by the program, including organic products. PDP food samples are randomly collected from volunteer wholesale distribution sites in local areas across the US.

PDP Samples Analyzed by Accredited Laboratories

The PDP laboratories are accredited and equipped with instrumentation capable of detecting tiny amounts of pesticide residues, including levels significantly below the tolerances set by the EPA. As many as 520 pesticide residues can be analyzed in a single test.

PDP Provides High-Quality Pesticide Residue Data

The pesticide data published by USDA annually provide regulators, scientists, pesticide manufacturers, farmers, processors, and consumers with important insights into pesticide residue levels found on widely consumed foods. The PDP data are available on the [AMS website](https://www.ams.usda.gov/pdp) or by contacting the program.

Contact PDP

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