



December 2014

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to present the Pesticide Data Program's (PDP) 23rd Annual Summary for calendar year 2013. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), conducts this program each year to collect data on pesticide residues in food. This report shows that overall pesticide residues found in foods are at levels below the tolerances set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The PDP provides reliable data that helps assure consumers that the food they feed their families is safe. Over 99 percent of the products sampled through PDP had residues below the EPA tolerances. Ultimately, if EPA determines a pesticide is not safe for our families, it is removed from the market. This system of checks and balances provides Americans with the safest food supply in the world.

The PDP tests a wide variety of domestic and imported foods using a sound statistical program and the most current laboratory methods. The EPA uses the PDP data when looking at dietary pesticide exposure, a critical step to verify that all sources of exposure to pesticides meet U.S. safety standards.

The PDP is not designed for enforcement of EPA pesticide residue tolerances. Rather, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for enforcing EPA tolerances. PDP provides FDA and EPA with monthly reports of pesticide residue testing and informs the FDA if residues detected exceed the EPA tolerance or have no EPA tolerance established. In instances where a PDP finding is extraordinary and may pose a safety risk, FDA and EPA are notified immediately. In such cases, USDA may also work with U.S. growers in an outreach effort to communicate possible pesticide regulatory decisions or improved agricultural practices.

The PDP works with State agencies representing all regions of the country and more than half of the U.S. population. In 2013, samples were collected and analyzed in California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. The data reported by PDP corroborate that residues found in agricultural products sampled are at levels that do not pose risk to consumers' health (i.e., are safe according to EPA).

For more information about PDP, please visit our website at www.ams.usda.gov. For more information about pesticides and food, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food>.