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Dear Premier Milk Members,

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has informed the dairy producer and processor communities of their plan to initiate a targeted testing program for drug residues. The testing program is a compliance and enforcement activity of the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) for those dairy producers with an antibiotic-positive tissue sample resulting from the marketing of dairy cull cows. Milk samples will be collected from 900 (of the 1800) dairy farms identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) having drug residue in a dairy cull cow during the previous three years. If you have had a residue violation of a dairy cull cow in the last three years it is likely your farm will be visited by the FDA.

Testing will be conducted by the FDA CVM, with samples collected directly from the bulk milk tank at the farm by an FDA official. Samples will be shipped to one of three FDA central laboratories for analysis. As part of a compliance activity related to proper use of drugs, the FDA CVM has the legal right to take samples from the farmer's bulk tank. If such a sample is taken on your farm by FDA, you should that same day immediately contact your milk hauler and Tom Pittman to determine further actions **prior** to the milk being loaded on a milk tanker truck.

The National Milk Producers Federation has released a new resource manual that offers a concise review of appropriate antibiotic use in dairy animals. The 2011 *Milk and Dairy Beef Drug Residue Prevention Manual* is available online at <http://nationaldairyfarm.com/residue-prevention.html>.

Given the potential for severe financial and reputational impact to you, Premier Milk, and our customers, all producers are reminded of the importance of strictly following all veterinarian and drug label recommendations on the use of antibiotics and associated withholding times. Maintaining the safety of our milk supply is and has been our highest priority. Preserving the integrity and safety of milk is a requisite to developing and maintaining a secure market for our members' milk.

For more information, please contact Tom Pittman @ 352-433-2527.