

## Questions and Answers

### *Effect of the Japan Accident on the U.S. Milk Supply*

April 2, 2011

**Q1: I understand that radiation has been found in U.S. milk samples. Is milk safe to drink? Are kids at risk if they drink milk?**

A1: Rest assured, the U.S. milk supply is safe to drink for everyone, including children and infants. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as medical experts, have stated that the miniscule levels of radiation detected do not pose a health concern. For example, a person would need to drink 4,227, 8-ounce glasses of the sampled milk to receive the same amount of the radiation exposure he/she would get in a single chest x-ray.

**Q2: Are other products made with milk -- such as cheese, yogurt, and ice cream -- safe to eat?**

A2: Yes, all dairy products are safe to consume. The EPA and the FDA, as well as medical experts, have stated that the miniscule levels of radiation detected do not pose a health concern.

**Q3: Is there any possibility that radiation in milk will reach a harmful level?**

A3: Government agencies such as the EPA, FDA, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission do not anticipate that harmful amounts of radiation will reach the United States. That said, they are carefully monitoring for any increased levels of radiation so they may continue to reassure Americans that the U.S. food supply is safe. Consumer safety is the highest priority for dairy farmers and dairy foods companies, and the U.S. dairy industry will continue to work closely with federal and state government agencies to ensure a safe milk supply.

**Q4: Does the EPA routinely test milk for radiation levels?**

A4: Yes, for the past 50 years, the EPA has regularly tested milk – as well as precipitation, air, and drinking water – for radiation levels to inform scientists and ensure public safety. Given the nuclear accident that occurred in Japan, the EPA and many state agencies are increasing their monitoring of radiation in precipitation, air, drinking water, and milk to ensure that there is no public health concern. The results indicated only miniscule levels of radiation detected, which FDA and EPA continue to state do not pose a health concern.

**Q5: Where can I find more information regarding the effects of the Japan nuclear accident on the U.S. food supply and environment?**

A5: The EPA and FDA are regularly updating their websites with information. You may visit the EPA site at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) or the FDA site at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). You also may call the FDA's toll-free consumer information line at 1.888.SAFE.FOOD (1.888.723.3366) during regular business hours.