

Call for Multi-Veterinary Drug Method in Honey

Dear Colleagues in Government, Industry and Academia,

The Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community needs your input. You do not need to be a member of any particular organization to participate. There is an immediate need for a multi-antibiotic method for honey. We would like to get the advice of scientists analyzing honey as well as business people affected by analyses of honey. We want to assure that collaborated methods are the best methods for use by scientists internationally.

Honey is a very large industry, not just due to the honey bear on your breakfast table but due to honey use in bakery goods and cereals. In the US alone, honey worth more than \$4 million is exported and greater than \$128 million is imported.

Veterinary drugs are being used in an attempt to control foul brood disease and other health issues in honey colonies. At the same time, there is a growing concern that antibiotic use is leading to antibiotic resistance. In the last five years, thousands of dollars have been lost due to the illegal use of antibiotics in imported honey. In 2002 & 2003, chloramphenicol was detected in imported honey, leading to seizure of thousands of pounds of honey. In 2005, fluoroquinolones, including the widely publicized cipro, were found in honey from China leading to U.S. import alerts. There have also been reports of nitrofurans being detected in honey. The problem is serious enough that officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are working with officials from China to resolve it. What drug will be used next year?

Regulatory laboratories need methods that will detect and provide legally defensible data for drug contaminants in honey. Importers and exporters need methods that will assure that products offered for trade meet the standards of the countries where they are sold. Producers need methods that will assure the products they sell and the ingredients they use are free from illegal contaminants like antibiotics. From quality control to export certification to regulatory enforcement, we need methods that will detect and quantitate several different veterinary drug chemical classes. If we can validate a screening method and get legally acceptable confirmation of identity in the same method, that is even better.

In an effort to identify all the method needs and encourage the development of methods that will be the most useful to all stakeholders, we need your input.

We need to get feedback from as many people as possible to answer the following questions:

Participation: Are you willing to help prioritize methods, review proposals, and develop methods?

Matrix: What types of honey need to be analyzed?

Analytes: What drugs need to be screened and confirmed?

Quantitation: What detection limit and range of concentrations are needed?

Instrumentation: What technology and instrumentation can be utilized?

Time and Resources: Do you need a quick screening method or an LC/MS extraction method?

Please complete the following survey and return to AOAC, Anita Mishra by January 31, 2007.

Your Name:

Organization:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

Can you help? Provide advice (Yes/No)

Help prioritize methods (Yes/No)

Review technical proposals or methods (Yes/No)

Develop and validate methods (Yes/No)

Types of Honey:				
		Limit of Detection (ppm)	Range of Quantitation (ppm)	Regulatory Limit (ppm)
Analytes:				
Instruments-Technology				
Time and Resources				