Glyphosate Talking Points
January 2016

Background:

The USDA Pesticide Data Program (PDP) is an important tool for informing the public about pesticide residues on produce and is used by the EPA for evaluating pesticide exposure and setting tolerances. Commodity selections are made based on EPA's data needs. EPA uses PDP data to conduct dietary risk assessments and to ensure that any pesticide residues in foods remain at safe levels.

PDP's mission is to test fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and specialty products like peanut butter for a broad range of pesticides PDP tests a wide variety of domestic and imported foods using a sound statistical program and the most current laboratory methods. PDP testing laboratories use a single test for each commodity sample called a multi-residue method (MRM). This method provides results for over 200 pesticides, metabolite, and isomers with this single test. Glyphosate is not detectable using the MRM and would require a specialized method, single analyte method, to test for residues.

PDP 2015 Commodities:

During 2015, PDP analyzed the following commodities for a broad range of pesticides that are captured using the MRM:

Apples, cherries, cucumbers, grapes, green beans, lettuce, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pears, potatoes, spinach, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, milk, and peanut butter.

The MRM capture over 200 pesticides in a single test for each commodity sample. Each commodity has a specific test list based on that commodity's registrations for pesticides that are detectable by the MRM.

Current Glyphosate Testing:

Currently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is testing corn and soybean grains for glyphosate residues. Results from the FDA testing will provide insights on whether additional data is needed for ongoing evaluation of glyphosate tolerances to ensure that the levels set by EPA meet the safety standards prescribed by the law. Glyphosate residue data is not part of 2015 PDP sampled pesticides.