Announcement

EUPT-AO21 (2026)

European Proficiency Test on Pesticides in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content

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Pesticides in Whole Milk

16.01.2026

European Union Reference Laboratory for Pesticides in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content

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Version 1.1

Changes to version 1.0 (from 13.01.26):

- Addition of 5 voluntary pesticides

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QCG: Quality Control Group AG: Advisory Group

Introduction

The European Union Reference Laboratory for Pesticides in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content in Freiburg, Germany, announces its 21th proficiency test (PT), thus enabling again each participating laboratory to assess its analytical capability by comparing its results with the assigned values.

The matrix will be **whole milk**. The Proficiency test item (PT item) will be spiked with selected analytes of interest. They are included in the list of maximum residue levels in Commission Regulation 396/2005 and most of them also in the list of compounds to be analysed in the 2025-27 Multiannual Coordinated Control Programme (MACP, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/989 and the Working Document SANCO/12745/2013 rev.16).

The pesticide target list in the annex of this document consists of pesticides from former EUPT lists and in addition few pesticides considered to be relevant for the matrix whole milk. Some pesticides are marked to be analysed on voluntary basis. For sufficient scope it is necessary

- to analyse at least 90% of the mandatory analytes from the list in the annex and
- to detect at least 90% of the analytes present in the test item.

The voluntary pesticides will be statistical treated as the mandatory pesticides but their results will not influence the categorising in A and B.

New pesticides were introduced in the voluntary target list. The majority belongs to the so-called “PFAS pesticides” group which are of high interest of the Commission.

The PT item will be dispatched on Monday, 13 April 2026. Participating laboratories may use any analytical method of their choice. Results are to be reported to the EURL AO within the stipulated deadline. After receipt of the results, the EURL AO will carry out a statistical evaluation of the submitted data and all quantitative laboratory results will be assessed by means of z-scores. Thereafter, a report will be sent to the participating laboratories together with a certificate of participation.

Objectives

The objectives of this proficiency test are

- to assess the inter laboratory consistency of results from the analyses of pesticides in samples of animal origin and
- to provide a quality assurance assessment of the NRLs and the official laboratories within the EU.

Participants

According to Art. 101 of Reg. (EU) 625/2017 and Art. 28 (3) of Reg. (EC) 396/2005, participation is mandatory for all laboratories selected as NRL for Pesticides in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content and for all official laboratories undertaking the analysis of these commodities for the official control on pesticide residues. If your laboratory is obliged to participate and you do not participate in this PT, the Commission expects an explanation for non-participation. Based on the data stored in the Lab-Network Database about the commodity scope and the status of each lab, each laboratory is classified as obliged or not obliged to take part in this PT. This information can also be found on the EUPT-registration page. Errors should be reported to the corresponding NRL and to eurl-pesticides@cvuafr.bwl.de.

Laboratories are requested to enrol for participation within the EUPT-registration website (**Please log in "EURL-DataPool" using your EURL-DataPool login credentials and click the register "EUPT", then "Register"**) which is going to be used for all EUPTs performed by the EURLs for pesticide residues. The registration period will last from **13 January to 06 March 2026**. Participants will be able to re-enter the registration website and change/update the entries (e.g. addresses for shipment and invoice, contact data). Deadline for these changes is **03 April 2026.**

Below are the links to the instructions on registration:

- Instruction on registration as an obliged participating laboratory
- Instruction on registration as a participating laboratory on voluntary basis

After the end of the registration deadline, the participants will receive their username and password for DTU EUPT-Webtool (EUPT-AO21) as well as the latest EUPT-AO-Webtool guideline via e-mail.

IMPORTANT: Before the shipment of the samples, participating laboratories have to select **CAREFULLY** the analytes from the target list being part of their analytical scope via DTU EUPT-Webtool (EUPT-AO21). Deadline for any changes in scope will be one working day before the shipment of samples (**10 April 2026**). After this deadline neither participants nor the EURL is able to change the scope. **The EURL will not accept any changes sent by email.** If scope selection is not performed, all mandatory analytes will be automatically selected.

Proficiency test item

The PT item consists of one unit of homogenised liquid whole milk (3.5 % fat content) with spiked analytes of interest. The EURL AO produces the PT material on its own. The PT item will be stored frozen until shipment. PT items will be shipped under cooled conditions. Approx. **120 g** of the PT item will be supplied. Please note that for this PT no blank (non-spiked) sample will be provided!

Analytical parameters and reporting of results

The PT item may contain any analyte from the lists given in the annexes. For each of the analytes a specific minimum required reporting level (MRRL) is given. Selected analytes were added to the whole milk at relevant concentrations. Single results above 0.010 mg/kg of each analyte detected

shall be reported in **mg/kg**, rounded to three significant figures (e.g. 0.0581, 0.251 or 1.35). and below 0.010 mg/kg to two significant figures (e.g. 0.0058). Analyte concentrations below the individual reporting levels (RL) shall be considered as “not detected” and no figures shall be typed into the database.

Further instructions for analysis and reporting

Laboratories should

- store the PT item frozen (-18°C) until analysis,
- mix the whole PT item carefully to make sure that the test item is homogeneous,
- suggestion of EURL: portion the content of the PT item into subsamples and store unused portions cooled (at -18°C) for later analysis,
- use your own standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up and analytical measurement,
- use your own reference standards for identification and quantification,
- provide a detailed method description and any additional information.

Sample receipt forms should be confirmed in the DTU EUPT-Webtool (EUPT-AO21) when the PT item is dispatched and arrived in your lab. Results should be submitted by using the DTU EUPT-Webtool (EUPT-AO21) before the deadline on **08 May 2026**. There will be **no extension of the deadline**. As laid down in Regulation 2017/625, NRLs are responsible for evaluating and improving their OfL network. For this reason, the EURL AO will confide the laboratory codes of OfLs to their NRLs together with the final report. On request of NRLs the organisers will confide the laboratory codes one month after dispatch of the preliminary report.

By sending the preliminary report to the participants, all participants are requested for a proof reading of the preliminary report. In particular the NRLs and OFLs with an individual z-score ≥ 3 or false positive/negative results are requested to give feedback to EURL-AO on any actions undertaken to find out the reasons for poor performance. For reporting necessary corrections, please use the excel-sheet that will be attached to the email with the preliminary report.

Statistical evaluation of results

EUPT AO21 is one of four proficiency tests organised by the EURLs for pesticide residues as part of their work programmes for 2026. Thus, the performance and the evaluation of EUPT AO21 will be similar to those that will be used in the other EUPTs.

The performance of each laboratory will be evaluated and presented in an anonymous format in a report written after the final evaluation. The organisers will calculate the mean, robust mean, median and standard deviation for each spiked analyte. The procedure will follow the General Protocol for EU proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed and the IUPAC/ISO/AOAC International Harmonised Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of Chemical Analytical Laboratories

(see also ISO 13528). The evaluation will be performed in close cooperation with the Scientific Committee for EUPTs. First, pre-assigned values will be calculated taking into account the results of all participants. At the meeting of the Scientific Committee for EUPTs (mid 2026) the pre-assigned values will be discussed. The pre-assigned values will be confirmed or recalculated after omitting results of laboratories according to the suggestions of the Scientific Committee for EUPTs.

Time schedule

Actor	Activity	Date
EURL	Preliminary announcement matrix whole milk meat at Joint Workshop in Freiburg	September 2025
EURL	First information supplied to laboratories and call for participation	13 January 2026
Participant	**Registration** via EUPT website	**13 January 2026 – 06 March 2026**
Participant	**Scope selection** via EUPT webtool	**30 March – 10 April 2026**
Participant	Proof of shipment address in EURL-Datapool	Ending 03 April 2026
EURL	**Dispatch of test material**	**13 April 2026**
Participant	Confirmation of test material receipt	14 – 17 April 2026
Participant	**Deadline for reporting of test results**	**08 May 2026***
Participant	Deadline for reporting of additional method information (no changes of reported results possible)	15 May 2026
EURL	Deadline for preliminary report	Approx. 31 July 2026
Participant	Proof Reading of preliminary report	Approx. September 2026
EURL	Dispatch of the final report as pdf-file	Approx. end of 2026

* Please make sure to report your results on time as there will be **no extension of the deadline.**

Participation fee

There is a **fee of EUR 200.00** for shipping and handling to participants within the European Union and EFTA countries (**including NRLs**). Fees for participants from **other countries** are **EUR 400.00**. An invoice will be sent by e-mail when the samples will be dispatched.

Please check the website for further details:

https://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/docs/public/home.asp?LabID=300&Lang=EN

Confidentiality

In each EUPT, the participating laboratories are given a unique code, initially only known to themselves and the organisers. In the final EUPT report, in accordance with the other EURLs for pesticide residue, no participation list will be provided. The organisers are allowed to provide NRLs

with the EUPT AO21 codes of all OfLs in their respective networks. The organisers further reserve the right to share EUPT results and codes with other EURLs for pesticides residues.

Contact information EURL AO

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Annex 1

EUPT-AO21 Pesticide target list of mandatory analytes

Table A1: List of 80 **mandatory** analytes and minimum required reporting levels (MRRL) in EUPT AO 21 (PT item whole milk).

Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)	Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)
Aldrin	0.003	Fenthion	0.005
Azinphos-methyl	0.005	Fenthion-Oxon	0.005
Bifenthrin	0.005	Fenthion-Oxonsulfone	0.005
Bixafen	0.005	Fenthion-Oxonsulfoxide	0.005
Boscalid	0.005	Fenthion-Sulfone	0.005
Carbendazim	0.005	Fenthion-Sulfoxide	0.005
Chlordane, cis-	0.001	Fenvalerate/Esfenvalerate (RR/SS/RS/SR)	0.005
Chlordane, trans-	0.001	Fipronil	0.002
Chlorfevinphos	0.005	Fipronil-Sulfone	0.002
Chlorpropham	0.005	Fluopyram (new)	0.005
Chlorpyrifos	0.005	Fluopyram-Benzamide (M25) (new)	0.005
Chlorpyrifos-Methyl	0.005	Fluquinconazole	0.005
cis-Heptachlor epoxide	0.002	Flusilazole	0.005
Cyfluthrin (sum)	0.005	HCH, alpha-	0.005
Cypermethrin (sum)	0.005	HCH, beta-	0.005
Cyproconazole	0.005	HCH, gamma-	0.005
DDD, p,p-	0.005	Heptachlor	0.002
DDE, p,p-	0.005	Hexachlorobenzene	0.005
DDT, o,p-	0.005	Indoxacarb	0.005
DDT, p,p-	0.005	Lambda-Cyhalothrin	0.005
Deltamethrin	0.005	Malathion	0.005
Diazinon	0.005	Metaflumizone	0.005
Dieldrin	0.002	Methoxychlor	0.005
Endosulfan, alpha-	0.005	Nitrofen	0.005
Endosulfan, beta-	0.005	Oxychlordane	0.002
Endosulfansulfate	0.005	Parathion	0.005
Endrin	0.001	Parathion-methyl	0.005
Epoxiconazole	0.002	Pendimethalin	0.005
Etofenprox	0.005	Penflufen	0.005
Famoxadone	0.005	Penthiopyrad	0.005
Fenpropidin	0.005	Permethrin (sum)	0.005
Fenpyrazamine	0.005	Phosmet	0.005

Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)
Phoxim	0.005
Pirimiphos-Methyl	0.005
Prochloraz	0.005
Profenofos	0.005
Prothioconazole-Desthio	0.005
Pyrazophos	0.005
Quintozene	0.005
Resmethrin, (cis; trans)	0.005
Sulfoxaflor	0.005
Fluvalinate (sum)	0.005
Tebuconazole	0.005
Tecnazene	0.005
Tetraconazole	0.005
Thiacloprid	0.005
trans-Heptachlor epoxide	0.002
Vinclozolin	0.005

Results above 0.010 mg/kg shall be rounded to three significant figures (e.g. 0.0581, 0.251 or 1.35) and below 0.010 mg/kg to two significant figures (e.g. 0.0058).

Legend:

new as mandatory analytes!
PFAS Pesticides (overall 64)

Annex 2

EUPT-AO21 Pesticide target list of voluntary analytes

Table A2: List of 78 **voluntary** analytes and minimum required reporting levels (MRRL) in EUPT AO 21 (PT item whole milk).

Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)	Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)
Acrinathrin	0.005	Fluometuron	0.005
Alpha-Cypermethrin (aka alphamethrin)	0.005	Fluopicolide	0.005
Beflubutamid	0.005	Flupyradifurone	0.005
Benfluralin	0.005	Flurochloridone	0.005
Benzalkonium chloride n-C12	0.005	Flutianil	0.005
Benzalkonium chloride n-C14	0.005	Flutolanil	0.005
Benzovindiflupyr	0.005	Fluxapyroxad	0.005
Bixafen, Desmethyl-	0.005	Hydroxy-Tebuconazole	0.005
Boscalid-5-hydroxy (M510F01)	0.005	Isopyrazam	0.005
BTS 44595	0.005	Isoxaflutole	0.005
BTS 44596	0.005	Isoxaflutole diketonitrile-metabolite	0.005
Chlorfenapyr	0.005	Lufenuron (sum of isomers)	0.005
Chlorfluazuron	0.005	Malaoxon	0.005
Cyclobutrifluram	0.005	Mefentrifluconazole	0.005
Cyflufenamid (sum of isomers)	0.005	Metconazole	0.005
Cyflumetofen	0.005	Molinate	0.005
Cyflumetofen (sum of isomers)	0.005	Novaluron	0.005
Didecyldimethylammonium chloride n-C10	0.005	Oxadiargyl	0.005
Diflufenacin	0.005	Oxasulfuron	0.005
Flazasulfuron	0.005	Oxathiapiprolin	0.005
Flonicamid	0.005	Oxyfluorfen	0.005
Flonicamid Metabolite TFNA-AM	0.005	Paraoxon-methyl	0.005
Fluazinam	0.005	Penoxulam	0.005
Flubendiamide	0.005	Pentachloroaniline	0.005
Fludioxonil	0.005	Picolinafen	0.005
Fluensulfone	0.005	Picoxystrobin	0.005
Flufenacet	0.005	Propaquizafop	0.005
Flufenoxuron	0.005	Prosulfuron	0.005
Flumetralin	0.005	Pydiflumetofen	0.005

Analyte	MRRL (mg/kg)
Pyraclostrobin	0.005
Pyridalyl	0.005
Pyroxsulam	0.005
Quinoclamine	0.005
Spinosad (sum)(1)	0.005
Spinosyn A(2)	0.005
Spinosyn D(2)	0.005
Spirodiclofen	0.002
Spiroxamine	0.005
Tembotrione metabolite M5 (4,6-dihydroxy tembotrione)	0.005
Tetraniliprole	0.005
Thiophanate-Methyl	0.005
Trifloxystrobin	0.005
Triflumizole	0.005
Triflumizole metab. FM-6-1	0.005
Triflumuron	0.005
Trifluralin	0.005
Triflusulfuron metab. IN-M7222	0.005
Tritosulfuron	0.005
Tritosulfuron metab. AMTT	0.001

(1) Results for Spinosad should be reported either if individual standards for Spinosyn A and D or a mixture of Spinosyn A and D are used for quantification.

(2) Results for Spinosyn A or D should be reported, if the individual standards were used for quantification.

Results above 0.010 mg/kg shall be rounded to three significant figures (e.g. 0.0581, 0.251 or 1.35) and below 0.010 mg/kg to two significant figures (e.g. 0.0058).

Legend:

new
PFAS Pesticides (overall 64)