

[Food Safety in Finland 2023](#) section 5. Control Program for Veterinary Medicinal Product Residues (Eläinlääkejäämien valvontaohjelma), only in finish.

Short summary of the results 2023 in English

## **Control Program for Veterinary Medicinal Product Residues in Finland – Results 2023**

The annual control program for veterinary medicinal product residues (VMP-residue program) for live animals and animal-derived food has been implemented, as required under both national and EU legislation (Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Delegated Regulation (EU) 1644/2022 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 1646/2022).

In 2023, the risk-based VMP-residue program was fulfilled almost as planned. Analyses were conducted using 3,150 samples, and roughly 40,000 results were obtained. In addition, 99 samples were taken randomly, yielding a total of almost 8600 results.

Table 1 presents the number of samples based on production figures by animal species or food product and the distribution of analyses between different groups of substances and the number of non-compliant samples in 2023. Some samples were tested for more than one category of substances by using multi-residue methods.

Samples are reported as non-compliant if they contain residues of authorized veterinary medicinal products or other substances in levels that exceed the maximum residue limits or action limits, or if it can be demonstrated that animals have been medicated in violation of regulations or given prohibited substances. An official investigation is always conducted when non-compliances are observed or suspected.

Table 1. Number of samples tested in the VMP-residue control program for different groups of animals or foodstuffs of animal origin for different groups of substances and number of non-compliant samples in 2023 (2.4.2024)

Group of animal species or food products	Risk-based program		Random-based program		Non-compliant samples (number) and detected residues
	Prohibited or non-authorized substanses (number)	Authorized veterinary substances (number)	Prohibited or no-authorized substanses (number)	Authorized veterinary substances (number)	
<b>Bovine</b>	727	359	7	7	0
<b>Pigs</b>	651	621	11	10	0
<b>Poultry</b>	558	473	18	17	0
<b>Sheep/Goat</b>	18	15	1	1	0
<b>Horse</b>	8	4	1	1	0
<b>Farmed Game</b>	20	35	1	1	0
<b>Milk</b>	136	158	20	20	0
<b>Aquaculture</b>	61	76	7	7	0
<b>Eggs</b>	57	51	9	9	0
<b>Honey</b>	59	59	2	2	0

No non-compliant samples were detected in 2023.

The results continue to show that food produced in Finland is safe for the consumer and that animal medication regulations - such as withdrawal periods for medication - are well respected.