



**PFAS Contamination Public Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**  
**FACT SHEET**

- The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) has several priorities and concerns, including human health, animal health and food/feed protection.
- We have taken – and will continue to take – several actions to address this situation. PFAS is an emerging issue across the nation with minimal scientific data available, and the finding of PFAS in a dairy well is unique.
- After learning from the Air Force that two dairies near Cannon Air Force Base had wells that tested above the Environmental Protection Agency’s PFOA and PFOS drinking water health advisory levels, NMDA requested that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) immediately determine if any impacts on health exist, and if so, that the FDA establish a regulatory threshold. NMDA requested that a decision by FDA be expedited.
- Milk from one of the two dairies tested above the FDA’s screening level for milk, and all milk from that dairy was pulled off sale Oct. 30, 2018. The milk at this dairy continues to be tested every two-to-four weeks.
- Milk at other dairies would only be tested if water test results at those dairies exceeded the EPA’s PFOA and PFOS drinking water health advisory levels.
- NMDA continues to monitor milk as needed in order to keep the food chain protected. The New Mexico Environment Department, in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), has tested approximately 90 wells within a 4-mile radius of the base in the last several months. If you have questions about having your well tested for PFAS, please call the NMDOH at 505-827-0006.
- Wells at dairies within a 4-mile radius of the Cannon Air Force Base property were initially of concern. This distance has been used in many other situations where groundwater contamination is in the plume characterization phase.
- NMDA officials have been in contact with the dairy industry, as well as with the Dairy Producers of New Mexico.
- NMDA’s priority is to focus on its regulatory areas of oversight, which includes milk as it relates to the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).

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- NMDA has reached out to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requesting that its Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) look into any potential impacts of PFOS and PFOA on meat. New Mexico State University is working with USDA FSIS and the FDA on this issue. No meat has entered the market since learning the milk was contaminated.
- NMDA will yield to EPA as the experts in the PFAS area. As a part of its effort, EPA is taking action to identify solutions to address PFAS in the environment. View details at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-actions-address-pfas>.

For more information, please contact:  
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