

25-Feb-2011

To whom it may concern,

The following comments on artificial growth hormones and antibiotic drug residues are provided in response to questions and concerns expressed regarding these topics and YoCream frozen dessert products.

All of our fluid milk supply originates from companies that prohibit the use of rbST (rbGH) by their farm suppliers. Although this is also the case for the majority of our powdered dairy ingredients, including all of our current suppliers, not all of our qualified suppliers operate under rbST prohibitory policies at this time. This does not mean that those products do, in fact, contain artificial hormones, but we do not have assurances from those manufacturers that those farm practices are prohibited. It should be noted that because there is no biochemical difference between the artificial and natural hormones or their metabolites, it is not possible to verify either the presence or absence of artificial growth hormones in any milk source. Even products sold as "rbST free" must rely on declarations by, or inspections of, the farm operators and cannot be verified by analytical testing of the products themselves. It must also be recognized that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have all concluded that milk from rBST treated cows is safe for human consumption and that no significant difference have been shown between milk derived from rbST treated and non-rbST treated cows. In light of the varying opinions that arise on this subject, we do understand the importance of this issue to many consumers and will continue to work with current and prospective suppliers to meet customer demands for "rbST free" products.

Because all of the fluid milk and all of the powdered dairy ingredients we use are Grade A, all are required to have been tested for antibiotic drug residues prior to their acceptance at their respective manufacturing plants. These regulations are identified in the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), are enforced by the FDA, and are mandatory for Grade A fluid milk for processing in the US. Any shipments found to be positive for drug residues must be destroyed and cannot be comingled or used in other products intended for human consumption. Therefore, all of our dairy ingredients have been demonstrated to be free from antibiotic drug residues and are in compliance with federal and state laws in this regard. This verification step is vital to us not only from a public health perspective but because the presence of drug residues could also inhibit the fermentation process required in the manufacture of our frozen yogurt products.

We appreciate the concerns raised on the previous points and remain confident in the wholesomeness of our products and in our commitment to provide safe and high quality food products to our customers.

Sincerely,



Ted Whitehead  
Food Safety & Quality Assurance Manager  
YoCream International, Inc.