Date: September 29, 2023

To: State Milk Regulatory and National Milk Drug Residue Database Reporters

From: Laurie Kurtz, Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)

RE: NMDRD Third Party Contract

For the past 30 years GLH, Inc. (a third-party contractor) has held a contract with the FDA to operate and maintain the National Milk Drug Residue Database (NMDRD). In advance of the NMDRD contract expiration on March 31, 2023, GLH, Inc. informed FDA that it did not plan to bid on the prospective contract for continuing work on the NMDRD due to retirement. In November of 2022, FDA requested GLH, Inc. to accept a six-month contract extension to provide time to name a new third-party contractor. GLH agreed to this extension request to continue services from April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. The contract extension specified that GLH, Inc. issue a special NMDRD FY2023 Interim Annual Report at the conclusion of the six-month extension. This FY2023 Interim Annual Report including data collected from October 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023 has been posted on the NMDRD website .

In June 2023, FDA announced that the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) was selected as the new NMDRD contractor. JIFSAN is a third-party food safety organization associated with the University of Maryland. Before selecting JIFSAN, FDA sent out a request for bids and received several responses. After a thorough review of the responses, JIFSAN was chosen due to the sound and effective working relationship FDA currently has with this organization as well as their ability to meet the deliverables of this database. For these reasons, they were the clear frontrunner to provide a comprehensive and uniform summary of the national testing activities for the NMDRD. As with the previous contractor, JIFSAN will be evaluated annually.

To implement a smooth transition, GLH, Inc. provided a transition and training plan. JIFSAN has been job shadowing GLH, Inc. to take over the NMDRD on October 1, 2023. JIFSAN would like to express their sincere appreciation to the GLH, Inc. staff for their assistance and support in training our staff for a smooth transition. They have gone above and beyond to ensure a smooth transition.

The process of entering the data through the website will remain the same for all reporters. The reporters and administrators can continue to submit their data through the web-based reporting system found at https://www.nmdrd.com/app/login. The change in the service provider will not impact the work of the reporters. This website will remain active and will be updated by JIFSAN. The only change for those who submit data will be who they will contact for any questions or tech support. We would like to introduce you to the following JIFSAN staff which have also been added at the bottom of the website:

Technical Director: Laurie Kurtz
          techdirector@nmdrd.com

Database Administrator: Cynthia Petersen
          dbadmin@nmdrd.com

Software Support:

        Greg Lyon
        glyon@umd.edu

JIFSAN will prepare the Annual NMDRD Report which will include the same data as previous Annual Reports. As FY 2023 comes to an end, we have begun to work on the FY 2023 Annual Report. Please continue to submit your data in a timely manner and remember that **December 1st is the due date for all the data through the end of September.** This deadline is important so that all your data can be included in the Annual Report. As in previous years, the Annual Report will be distributed on December 15, 2023.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are excited to work on this important database and looking forward to working with each of you!