

**VETERINARY DRUG RESIDUES DETERMINATION IN COW AND  
EWE RAW MILK IN ARDABIL REGION (NORTHWEST OF IRAN)**

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Veterinary drugs are used widely for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes. Nowadays antibiotics are added to animal feed as growth promoters. Human exposure to antibiotics residues in milk is a serious risk to public health. At this study 50 raw milk samples of each cow and ewe milk samples were collected randomly from the milk collection center and sheep herds in Ardabil region from December of 2013 to February of 2014. For detection of antibiotic residues in milk samples Copan milk test was used. Of all cow and ewe raw milk samples, antibiotic residues were detected in 30% and 60% of samples, respectively. There was significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) between the positive cow and ewe milk samples. The high prevalence levels of antibiotic residues in milk indicate a need to control the veterinary drug use at the farm level in Ardabil region, Iran. Unfortunately in Iran, there is not any residue prevention program. The findings need to be confirmed with other assay methods. This is the first report of antibiotic residues in ewe raw milk samples in Ardabil region, northwest of Iran.

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