How Accreditation Strengthens Data

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MDA’s Accreditation Journey

• Accredited since August 2011
  – Pesticide Data Program (PDP) & Microbiological Data Program (MDP)
  – Water Testing (Safe Drinking Water/Clean Water)
• Continued to add food, feed, water and environmental methods at successive biennial onsite audits
• Currently 26 Chemistry and 12 Microbiology methods on scope
Importance of Lab Accreditation

• Laboratory accreditation is a vital element for ensuring the integrity and validity of test results
  – Provides formal recognition of competence, impartiality, independence and reliability
  – It is especially critical in a regulatory laboratory for purposes of legal defensibility
• Accreditation gives customers confidence in the laboratory data
• FDA willing to take action on state data
MDA’s Experience

• Decrease in challenges to our results since accreditation

• Previously FDA was more likely to wait until they had tested their own samples before taking action

• 6 recent MDA positives led to recalls or other FDA action/follow-up
Our Experience with Data Submission

• Inform state regulatory personnel
  – FDA FERN NPO first if FERN sample
• Forward data packet- sample worksheets, QC worksheets, sample submission worksheets & Chain of Custody (COC)
• Provide methods and scope of accreditation
  – Usually just need to provide once
• Reviewed by FDA Compliance Officers
• FDA FERN NPO personnel can help ease the way with FDA regulatory/compliance personnel
Resources

• APHL- Best Practices for Submission of Actionable Food and Feed Testing Data Generated in State and Local Laboratories


• ILAC- The advantages of being an Accredited Laboratory
  – https://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/benefits/

• ILAC- How does using an Accredited laboratory benefit Government and Regulators?
  – https://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/benefits/
Contact Information

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