



Occurrence of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in Cheese Produced in German Farm-Dairies

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine if raw milk cheese or cheese to be made out of heated milk, manufactured in small German cheese dairies might be a reservoir of contaminations with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Due to predominantly manual handling during cheese making, recontaminations with *Staphylococcus* (*S.*) *aureus* or MRSA cannot be excluded. Commercial cheese products ($n = 72$) available in the region of Hanover (Lower Saxony) and dairy products offered via internet were analyzed with regard to the occurrence of *S. aureus* and MRSA. Thereof, two cheese samples, manufactured from pasteurized milk and two samples, produced from raw milk, were *S. aureus* positive with CFU/g between 1.0×10^1 and 7.0×10^1 . MRSA was not detected. All analysed cheese samples could be considered safe for consuming.

KEYWORDS

Cheese Products; *Staphylococcus aureus*; MRSA; Small-Scale Processing Plant

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