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FOR MONSANTO

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PCB'S

NEWSMAN: The Food and Drug Administration has ordered restrictions on a widely used group of industrial chemicals to help keep them out of out of food. The agency banned the industrial use of polychlorinated-binfanals, PCB's for short, in the plants where food, animal feeds, and food packaging materials are made, handled, or stored.

PCB's have been used since 1929 for a wide variety of things, such as paints, plastics, rubbers, and inks. They've come under increasing criticism recently, because of the degree to which they were showing up in the food supply, In Japan, back in 1968, about a thousand people were effected after they consumed rice oil into which a PCB had leaked accidentally. The incident produced some birth defects, such as skin discoloration and slowed growth rate.

In this country, industrial accidents, involving animal feeds led to PCB's in chicken and other poultry. As the FDA was announcing its final order in the case, the Agriculture Department announced that one hundred twenty thousand turkeys were being held off the market in Central Missouri because of possible PCB contamination. It said the Ralston Purina Company of St. Louis found the contaminated birds at its packing plant in California, Missouri.

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