COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

August 22, 1974

TO: County Extension Directors

FROM: Larry R. Prewitt, Dairy Ecology Specialist

SUBJECT: Polychlorinated Biphenyl Silo Contamination

Gentlemen:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture is now surveying dairy farms for the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the milk. Should dairymen exceed 2.5 parts per million (PPM) in the milk fat they are excluded from the milk market.

The primary source of PCBs in Michigan is thought to be from a coating material to seal the interior of silos constructed by Michigan Silo Company. The coating material, "Cumar," contains Aroclor 1254 which is a PCB material. This material gets into the silage juices and is consumed by animals and is excreted in the milk.

There is a coating material as described in the attached paper thay may be put on silos to seal against PCB. This compound "009" is sold by Action Plastic Company of Charlotte. Mr. Andy Tangeman, Manager of Action Plastics, Inc. (517-543-4213) can supply names of silo companies that will coat the silos. Of course, if silos are to be coated it will need to be done prior to the filling of the silo this fall to avoid future problems. There are also other compounds that may be utilized and are described in the paper.

If you have questions after reading the paper don't hesitate to call.

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