Government Confiscates 6900 Dozen Tainted Eggs

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (UPI) —The Federal Government has confiscated 6900 dozen eggs contaminated by the industrial chemical that led last month to the slaughter of 88,000 tainted broiler chickens.

The eggs were laid by chickens that ate contaminated chicken feed, the Food and Drug Administration said yesterday. The eggs were found to contain the chemical PCB, which is similar to DDT.

No one was endangered from having eaten the contaminated eggs, James D. Grant, deputy FDA commissioner, said.

"On the basis of available scientific information, any possible health hazard would come from continued consumption over a long period," grant said.

PCB is not known to endanger human beings, but in experiments on mice repeated dosages have led to birth defects and liver damage.

The Department of Agriculture announced it had undertaken a crash program to inspect dried and frozen eggs for traces of the chemical.

FDA officials said the contamination resulted from a leaking pipe in the East Coast Terminal plant in Wilmington, N.C. The firm processes fish meal for use in making chicken feed and feed for catfish farms.

An investigation showed that the leak began in April and continued dripping the chemical, *polychlorinated biphenyls* (PCB), into the meal until it was discovered in July.

The leak spoiled 16,000 tons of fish meal.

Holly Farms in North Carolina voluntarily destroyed 88,000 broiler chickens in mid-July after tests showed the chickens had absorbed a dangerous amount of the chemical. They were the only chickens known to have been contaminated, federal officials said.

All of the eggs seized yesterday came from two firms in Norfolk, Va., the Valley Poultry and Produce, Inc., and Bisese & Console, Inc., the FDA said.

Cuba-U.S. Airlift Resuming Monday

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (UPI) —The refugee airlift from Cuba to the United States, suspended for the last week, will be resumed Monday.

The Havana government had announced earlier that the two flights a day from Havana to Miami had been suspended for administrative reasons. Yesterday Cuba told the United States through the Swiss Embassy in Havana that the airlift would be allowed to resume.



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