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ADDITIONAL PCB S REPORTED
IN MAINE POULTRY

WASHN-FEB 29--PEN--USDA TODAY REPORTED THE FINDINGS OF ADDITIONAL BROILER AND ROASTER/CHICKENS CONTAMINATED WITH POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) IN MAINE.

USDA SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 70,000 BIRDS ARE BEING HELD AT MAPLEWOOD PACKING CO., BELFAST, MAINE. USDA LAST WEEK RETAINED APPROXIMATELY 200,000 BIRDS AT PENOBSCOT POULTRY CO., BELFAST AND FT. HALIFAX POULTRY CO., WATERVILLE, MAINE.

USDA IS MONITORING ALL BIRDS BEING DELIVERED TO THE FIVE SLAUGHTER PLANTS LOCATED IN THE STATE OF MAINE. TESTS AT TWO OTHER PLANTS HAVE SHOWN ALL SPECIMANS TO BE WITHIN PCB GUIDELINES.

ALL FARMS KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE THREE PLANTS HAVING PCB PROBLEMS ARE HAVING THEIR POULTRY TESTED BEFORE SLAUGHTER UNDER USDA SUPERVISION. EARLY TEST RESULTS SHOW PCB LEVELS AS HIGH AS 119 PARTS PER MILLION. MORE THAN ONE MILLION BIRDS ARE INVOLVED IN THE SCREENING PROCESS ON THE FARMS.

USDA OFFICIALS SAID THAT FEED CONTAMINATED WITH PCBS IS SUSPECTED BEING THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM.

END

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