1. WJC
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8/14/71

Tainted Eggs, Feed Seized

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration announced Friday it has seized nearly 7,000 dozen eggs and 45,000 pounds of catfish feed because of contamination with a DDT-like substance.

The announcement was made on the heels of FDA's report that it had begun seizing the products of a canned goods firm, Bon Vivant, which had already initiated the process of recalling them.

The FDA said the seized eggs and catfish feed were tainted with a substance called PCA's — for polychlorinated biphenyls—which have been implicated with causing birth defects and liver damage in test animals.

The FDA emphasized that it does not consider the eggs and catfish feed to be a health problem, but conducted the seizure only because the PCB content violated the federal tolerance of five-tenths parts per million.

The PCB was traced to the eggs and catfish feed as a result of an investigation started last month when federal officials discovered a fish meal plant in Wilmington, N.C., had been leaking PCB from its cooling system for 2½ months. The fish meal was shipped to 64 firms in 13 southeastern states.

Initially, officials had been concerned about chickens. The Department of Agriculture declared an investigation turned up no problems with poultry reaching consumers, although Holly Farms, one of the nation's largest chicken producers, had to destroy 77,000 broilers after finding PCB contamination in the birds.

The FDA said further investigation led to tests of eggs and the feed used for catfish farming.

Don —
FYI from Atlanta paper.
Carl

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