Banner Front-Page Headline
Washington Evening Star

MILLIONS OF CHICKEN ARE TAINTED

Feed Recalled; U.S. Checking Hogs, Turkeys

James Welsh and John Fialka

Because of one leaky piece of equipment at a processing plant in North Carolina, millions of chickens raised and marketed in the eastern United States apparently have been contaminated by an industrial chemical.

Department of Agriculture officials are hurrying tests at chicken slaughter houses in the Southeast that regularly process to the market some 35 million broilers a week.

They are conducting the same kind of tests at 25 to 30 swine slaughter houses suspected of marketing animals raised on food that was contaminated and they are afraid that other foul such as turkeys may also be affected.

The chemical is polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), similar in some respects to DDT. It carries no immediate danger to human beings, but in experiments on mice repeated dosage has shown PCB to cause birth defects and liver damage.

Fish meal used in chicken feed and containing high levels of PCB was distributed over a period of two and one-half months to some 65 firms throughout the Southeast including Virginia. These firms and the tests now being conducted are confined to a 10-state area. But Agriculture officials are aware that some of the contaminated fish meal may have been retailed beyond that area and that the animals raised on food made with the meal were marketed and sold well beyond that.

(approximately 40-column-inch story)

(Paragraphs mentioning Monsanto.--)

Agriculture officials were told of the problem by FDA which learned of it late on Friday, July 16, from Monsanto Chemical Company, the nation's sole producer of PCB.

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Monsanto the PCB supplier was then consulted after which the giant chemical firm notified FDA.

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NOTE: FULL STORY ON ITS WAY FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE