98-21B POULTRY DIGEST
MO. 8.500

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PCB's increase chick's need for vitamin E and selenium

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) were shown to increase the apparent requirement for vitamin E and selenium of the chick for the prevention of exudative diathesis, reported G. F. Combs, Jr., and associates, Cornell University (*Poultry Sci.* 54:1143-1152, 1975).

The authors emphasize that the incidence of exudative diathesis in chicks may be overcome by increased levels of dietary vitamin E or of selenium. However, use of growth and the incidence of exudative diathesis, which respond to more than one variable, does not show which nutrient(s) is involved.

Feeding levels of PCB comparable to those previously found in feeds in the field and fed to breeder hens increased the susceptibility of the progeny of vitamin E-selenium deficiency when these chicks were reared on a diet deficient in vitamin E and containing a marginal level of selenium. The effects were observed only when the diets were deficient in vitamin E or contained marginal selenium.—*J.V.S.*

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