

AGWAY

File Book

R. N. Goddard

C. H. Riley

TO:L. S. Mix

FROM: G. E. Edick

DATE: January 27, 1971

SUBJECT:

On January 26, 1971, I took part in a meeting called by Commissioner Dalrymple in Albany to discuss the PCB problem. Present at this meeting were the following:

D. Dalrymple	
J. Dewey	Cornell
M. Scott	Cornell
C. Cohen	Inter-County
L. Batinkoff	
H. Trabosh	U.S.D.A.
D. Vadehra	Cornell
E. George	State
R. Newell	State
C. Trombold	Campbell Soup
J. Meyring	F.D.A.
L. Driggs	State

Results of the tests made to date by the State were disclosed. Based on these tests, it would appear that flocks fed by Inter-County and Agway are the flocks with PCB's. There have been very few tests made of other flocks outside of the area, but all that have been made are negative. It also appears that the affected birds received the PCB's in a large dose not too long ago.

USDA's original position was that all flocks coming from New York State should be tested before being shipped to market. After a lot of discussion, they agreed to hold the requirement to those birds originating in Ulster, Orange and Sullivan Counties for the present. They want these birds tested for both fat and eggs.

This matter of inspection obviously is a State responsibility and the State has accepted this. It will require their mustering most of their force to perform this function. They plan to operate the inspection on the basis of finding out which birds will be moving to market through the truckers and then proceeding to pick up samples and making the tests.

...continued

January 27, 1971

The major problem at the moment is that the FDA has not established a tolerance under which birds can move. Commissioner Dalrymple is taking the lead in working with the Federal Government in getting a tolerance established. If a tolerance is not established in the next couple of days, the Commissioner is planning a visit with Mr. Lyng in Washington. At that time, he will want representatives from Agway, Inter-County and Cornell with him.

At this point in time, no one knows how the PCB's are getting into the birds. There is a tendency to associate feed with the problem, however, knowledgeable people are anticipating that there could be other sources.

The meeting was not a particularly happy one inasmuch as the USDA and FDA continue their attitude..."You are wrong and prove to us that it isn't true." Their grasp of the effects of their action leaves something to be desired. As a result, primarily of the meeting, we in Agway are taking the following actions:

1. Getting a list of all poultrymen buying feed from Callicoon (the number is not great).
2. We are getting samples of eggs from each of our farmers in that area and testing them.
3. Getting any retained samples of feed that has been sold and samples of all current inventory and testing it.
4. Correlating with Inter-County on mutual sources of ingredients that we buy to determine if anything exists there.
5. We are sending a man to Callicoon to thoroughly inspect that plant.
6. We are checking a limited number of eggs from other areas to determine whether there is any contamination.
7. We are checking feed from all feed mills in the Agway system to determine if any contamination exists.

Our relations with the State continue very good.

There is no doubt in my mind but that some birds will have to be destroyed. At this point in time we are continuing our policy of staying in the background, assuming no liability and making no commitments for any payments.

GEE/sh