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State seeks dairy herds with PCB

LANSING (AP) — The state is trying to pinpoint which dairy herds are being fed silage contaminated with the chemical PCB.

John Heese, an official in the state Department of Natural Resources, said over the weekend that 76 dairy herds were found with polychlorinated byphenyl (PCB) levels ranging from a trace to 14 parts per million.

None of the milk above public health limits of 2.5 parts per million has reached consumers, state officials said.

Ken Van Patten, head of the state Agriculture Department's dairy inspection division, said the source of the PCB is a silo-coating material called "Cumar."

Van Patten said he is not certain how many silos are involved. He says he knows of only 11 dairy herds being monitored.

PCB is a heat-retardant chemical used in manufacturing. It also can cause cancer under certain laboratory conditions.

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