PCB - Fish Meal

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PCB in Poultry Feed

The term PCB (for polychlorinated biphynyls) has garnered its share of headlines during the past two weeks, although the term itself is new to many in the poultry industry. As reported earlier, PCBs used as heat transfer material in a pasteurizing facility found their way into imported fish meal destined for poultry feeds in 12 southeastern states since April 30.

PCBs have received little attention in biological research because of their excellent safety record in wide usage, notes Dr. J. V. Shutze, head of the extension poultry science department at the University of Georgia. Only one research publication has been found that related mortality to the use of the product. In this report, no data were presented as to age, number of birds nor levels of contamination.

Shutze reports further that trout are sensitive to PCBs; however, dosages must be more than 500 times higher than DDT to have the same results. No report in the field or in the literature indicate any symptoms in mature birds. Feed consumption, egg production and livability have been normal in all mature flocks observed and reported.

Poultry Tested for PCB Within Limits

Feedstuffs Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — All 400 samples of slaughtered poultry being tested for PCB residues by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Consumer & Marketing Service have been declared within FDA acceptable level.

A spokesman for USDA said, "However, we will still continue to monitor broilers in the Southeast in addition to routine samplings."

A second program to test breeder fowl and laying hens also has been started.

"The feeding length of time for breeders is longer than that of broilers, so they are just now ready to be tested," said the spokesman.

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