ABSTRACT OF PAPER

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Title: Yolk Content and Hatchability of Egg from Hens fed Aroclor 1242

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Ninety-six White Leghorn laying hens were divided into eight equal groups and fed a commercial diet supplemented with 0, 5, 10, 20, 40, or 80 ppm. polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) as Aroclor 1242. The hens were fed the experimental diets for 6 weeks and then a commercial diet for a 7 week recovery period. All hens were artificially inseminated and the eggs were set at weekly intervals. The diets containing 5 ppm PCB did not influence hatchability when fed for 6 weeks; 10 ppm reduced hatch in week 6; and 20, 40 and 80 ppm reduced hatch in week 2. Eggs from birds fed 40 ppm PCB would not hatch in week 6 and eggs from birds fed 80 ppm PCB would not hatch in week 2. Eggs with yolks having PCB levels above 2.0 ppm gave reduced hatchability and above 6.0 ppm would not hatch. The hatchability of the eggs from the birds fed 20, 40, and 80 ppm PCB improved during the seven week recovery period, but were still less than the controls.

Section Preference: Marketing and Technology

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