USDA MONITORING MAINE
POULTRY FOR PCB CONTAMINATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 1972 -- The United States Department of Agriculture today announced it had initiated a monitoring program for all poultry produced in Maine, after learning that some broiler and roaster chickens had been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

USDA's Consumer & Marketing Service said that 10 lots of birds -- approximately 200,000 -- were contaminated with PCBs and that the feed was suspected as the source of contamination.

C&MS said that the birds were being held by Penobscot Poultry Company in Belfast and at Fort Halifax Poultry Company in Waterville, All firms known to be associated with the feed problem are having their poultry tested before slaughter under USDA supervision, officials said.

C&MS said none of the 200,000 birds being held would be released into human food channels unless they comply with PCB guidelines established by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Birds not in compliance would be destroyed, C&MS said.

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While USDA is monitoring birds coming to slaughter, the FDA continued its investigation of the source of contamination.

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