EGGS

FDA Seeks Shipment From North Carolina

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officials have notified FDA of such a seizure, he said.

The eggs, had they arrived and been sold, would have gone to restaurants, hotels and small retail stores, according to Peter Schuck, an associate of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who has been closely following the flurry over PCB in poultry and eggs which has developed over the past several months.

The figure of 400,000 eggs came from a written reply from FDA's congressional services office to Rep. William F. Ryan (D-N.Y.) yesterday.

24 Samples Were High

M. J. Ryan, the FDA official, answered that PCB in levels above the FDA norm of 0.5 parts per million had been discovered in 24 samples of 64 lots of eggs. The levels ranged from 0.6 to 1.9 parts per million.

According to Walden each lot equals about 50 cases of eggs. There are about 30 dozen in each case, the official said. So, if 24 lots were in question, an approximate count would mean 1,200 cases, or 36,000 dozen, or 432,000 eggs.

The samples were taken from July 16, 1971, to the present. FDA's Ryan also said that although analysis of 64 lots had been completed, there are 72 lots to be tested.

Nader's group has written several critical letters to FDA Commissioner Charles C. Edwards this week, calling FDA's routine egg inspections "pitifully inadequate" and the emergency program "only now getting under way." Nader has suggested a nationwide health alert about contamination of poultry and eggs.

Walden said that the FDA's position is that PCB chamicals "could only harm human beings in large doses over long periods of time."

If FDA statistics are correct even with the twoscized shipments and the missing Washington eggs, there arestil about 100,000 possibly contaminated eggs that might have been sold as fresh produce and consumed within the state of North Carolina or sold as "broken shell" preserved egg material for such purposes as cake ingredients. No one in Rep. Ryan's office, Nader's office or in the FDA public relations office knows where they might be.

In a related development, the Agriculture Department stopped the sale yesterday of more than 30,000 pounds of processed forzen eggs—which are made from the so-called "broken shell" eggs sold to bakery companies—after discovering that of 12 samples tested in the Southeast, half were found to be contaminated with the levels ranging from 0.6 to 2.2 parts per million of PCB, which is similar to DDT.

The Nader spokesman, Schuck, sais that the original eggs were also from chickens contaminated by eating feed tainted by PCBearlier this summer.

The contaminated feed was detected last month in a Wilmington, N.C., manufacturer of chicken feed. The PCB had dropped on the fish meal for nearly four months from a leaking heat exchanger utilizing the chemical.

Suspected Eggs Sought

By WILLIAM HOLLAND
Star Staff Writer

More than 400,000 eggs possibly contaminated with the industrial chemical PCB have been shipped to wholesale markets in North Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C., within the last 10 days, according to officials of the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The ones headed for Washington haven't been found.

FDA officials say some of the eggs have been seized, some never arrived at their destination and some might have already been made their way into retail markets.

Two of the three main shipments were seized by the FDA Saturday from two Norfolk, Va., firms. Officials there confiscated 6,300 dozen, or 75,600 eggs.

The third major shipment, of 168,000 eggs, was scheduled to come early this week to Washington's Metropolitan Poultry and Egg Co., at 210 E St. SW, but when FDA officials from Baltimore visted the firm during the first three days of this week, they found no eggs to seize.

Melvin Willard, who works at Metropolitan and whose father is the firm's secretary-treasurer, said no eggs have arrived from the plant. Central Carolina Farms, Inc., of Durham, N.C. for a week. He said they had expected a shipment totaling 14,000 dozen. Willard said FDA inspectors were on hand Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to see if the eggs showed up.

FDA spokesman Jack Walden was under the assumption that the eggs had arrived and had already been sold, saying that the FDA inspectors went to the plant too late. "I guess we missed them," he said.

However, FDA had notified North Carolina state officials to initiate seizure of any intra-state shipments of the eggs, and it is possible, Walden said, that they might have seized the Washington shipment. However, no state

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