

## Franklin Residents' Blood Said Free of PCB Contaminant

*State  
Governor  
1/15/74*

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — No elevated levels of the banned chemical PCB were found in blood samples from 105 residents of Franklin, the Southeastern Idaho town where PCB contamination forced chickens and eggs to be destroyed, the state Department of Health and Welfare said.

Dr. Edward S. Gallagher, state health officer, said Thursday the report was based on preliminary results and more information on the PCB levels will be released next week.

The Franklin residents were tested after Ritewood Egg Co., the town's major industry, was forced to destroy more than 300,000 laying hens and one million eggs because of PCB contamination. The PCB was traced to a Billings, Mont., packing plant which had sold the Franklin poultry firm a supply of chicken feed.

Poultry and livestock feed produced by the Montana plant has been sent to poultry and livestock feeding operations in several states, and federal inspec-

tors said PCB contamination was found in states, Canada and Japan.

The analysis of blood samples drawn from residents of the Franklin area are completed, but tests on breast milk samples will not be finished until early next week, Gallagher said.

Early reports indicate that all persons tested have PCB levels below 5 parts per billion. Background levels of PCB found in the general U.S. population range from 5 to 20 parts per billion.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., also is testing some samples from Franklin residents, but results of those tests are not yet available, Gallagher said.

PCB, in large doses, has caused tumors in laboratory animals, killed cattle and caused skin diseases. Its production is now banned in the United States, but it is found in old electrical equipment, where it was used as a coolant.

## PCB levels in Franklin below norm

Associated Press

Residents of Franklin who were recently tested by health officials showed lower than average levels of PCBs, a cancer-causing chemical that contaminated chickens and eggs at a farm in the town this summer.

Dr. Edward S. Gallagher, chief health officer of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, said early reports indicate all persons tested have PCB levels below 5 parts per billion. Background levels of PCBs found in the general U.S. population range from 5 to 20 parts per billion, Gallagher said.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta also is testing some samples from Franklin residents, and results of those tests are expected next week.

Gallagher said his report is based upon preliminary results, and more information on the PCB levels will be released next week.

The Franklin residents were tested for PCB after Ritewood Egg Co., the town's major industry, was forced to destroy more than 300,000 laying hens and 1 million eggs because PCB levels were detected in the foods.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials said as many as 18 million PCB-contaminated eggs were sold to the public by Ritewood before the firm stopped sales Sept. 3. Health officials were concerned that those who lived near and worked at the poultry farm had ingested high levels of PCBs.

The only data on human exposure to the highly toxic chemical comes from a contamination incident in Japan in 1968, in which victims developed skin lesions and illness from massive doses of PCBs, and a Michigan experiment in which fishermen showed no ill effects from eating fish containing 25 ppm of the substance.

The Ritewood PCBs were traced to a Billings, Mont., pork processing plant which had sold the farm a feed supply.

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