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Banned chemical threat to his son

Mrs. Darling, holding her son Matthew, says she was devastated to learn barrels in the background contain the toxic chemical PCB, a cancer-

causing agent. One of the barrels have been leaking, and the chemical was found in the breast milk of Matthew's mother.

Contaminated

MONS 010980

Mother stops nursing after chemical found in her milk

LAFFETTE, Colo. (AP) — Contaminations of the banned chemical were found in the breast milk of a woman yesterday, and a state epidemiologist recommended that she temporarily stop nursing her 4½-year-old son.

Laboratory tests showed Marie's breast milk contains 1.8 per million of PCB, 3 ppm more than the U.S. Food and Drug Administration allows in cows' milk, said Lachhart, of the Colorado Department of Health.

Based on the results, Dr. Sandra M., a state epidemiologist, sug-

gested that Mrs. Darling temporarily stop breastfeeding her son Matthew. Ms. Lapham said she would conduct more detailed tests of Mrs. Darling's milk to find out whether the contamination was severe enough to pose a threat to humans.

The tests were conducted after Wayne Darling found 17 barrels of PCB on his ranch. One of the 55-gallon drums was leaking.

The chemical, called polychlorinated biphenyl, was developed in 1929 and used as an industrial coolant for decades. In 1937 it was found toxic to the human liver and in 1968,

some 1,600 Japanese were poisoned by PCB-contaminated rice. The Environmental Protection Agency banned it earlier this year.

The state Health Department also released test results showing that egg and chicken-fat samples from the Darling farm were contaminated with even higher concentrations of PCB.

Mrs. Darling has said she and her husband moved to Lafayette north of Denver "to live clean, healthy lives," only to discover "the most horrible thing in the world in our backyard."

The Darlings are vegetarians and

raised chickens. They ate some of the eggs and gave some to friends.

An investigation showed the 17 barrels were put near the Darling barn by a relative of the owner, thought they contained cooking oil. He was going to use the oil to weatherize fences.

Darling, a self-employed mechanic, said he left the barrels undisturbed for "a couple of years" after being told by the manufacturer, Monsanto Chemical Corp. of St. Louis, that they contained "a dangerous chemical."