PCB Corresp. 7-6 MW

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47907

ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

August 3, 1976

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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Food and Drugs

Dear Doctor:

This letter is directed primarily to practitioners who have clients that have silos constructed of concrete staves. There are now six dairy farms that have been identified in Indiana as having a PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) residue problem in their market milk. There has been concern for residues in other animals fed from this type of silo, but, to date, no specific problem has been identified.

From the information currently available the contamination is from silage stored in silos constructed of cement staves and coated on the inside with "Cumar", a sealant containing high levels of PCBs. These silos were constructed 12-15 years ago and the only ones identified as being a problem. Those silos constructed since 1971 are not involved.

Great care must be taken to not cause a panic and unfavorable publicity on the dairy and other animal industry. There is no cause for alarm on the part of the public since levels of PCBs are undetectable in large bulk tanks and in finished dairy products.

The Indiana State Board of Health is testing individual bulk tanks for PCBs and once a farm has been identified as PCB contaminated (2.5 ppm or more in milk fat), the farmer can no longer sell his milk. At this time there is no state or federal indemnity available for farmers in this particular bind.

The attached information extension bulletin gives some information on the PCB residue problem. If I can help explain the problem any further, please call me at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (317-749-2496).

Sincerely,

F. R. Robinson, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Extension Veterinarian
(Toxicologist)

FRR:bjb

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