SEPT. 22, 1971

afma feedgram

AMERICAN FEED MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPORT ON PCB'S, by Lee. H. Boyd, AFMA Washington office. PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are of increasing and serious concern to FDA, feed manufacturers, and producers of meat, milk and eggs. This concern was "triggered" in July when imported fish meal was heavily contaminated by this industrial chemical during pasteurization by a domestic fish meal processor.

What are PCB's? They are compounds belonging to the family of chlorinated hydrocarbons of which DDT is a member. They have been known and utilized for many years in a variety of applications - including heat exchangers, hydraulic fluids, plastics, pesticides, paper, ink and a host of others. Like DDT, they are very persistent and do not readily break down. When ingested, residues tend to accumulate in the fat similar to DDT.

What harm can PCB's do? Data on PCB's toxicity is scarce but some estimate it to be no more than half that of DDT. Detrimental effects on egg hatchability are readily detected when significant levels are present.

What is the extent of the contamination? Apparently greater and more widespread than has heretofore been recognized. This has become apparent in the feed/food industries through stepped up testing of ingredients, feeds and animal products by both government and industry laboratories.

What about tolerances? More consideration and study must be given this area. No official tolerance as such has been established for PCB's in foods but FDA currently considers anything above 5ppm in meat and .5ppm in eggs as "actionable levels." Indications are that under normal conditions these foods do not exceed the above levels.

What about feeds? Improved analytical methods and procedures are necessary to determine the extent and levels of residues in feedingstuffs. To date there is considerable variance. This problem has number one priority and is receiving careful study. As of now, there is no tolerance for PCB's in feedingstuffs nor has FDA yet indicated the level that might be "actionable".

What is AFMA doing? Everything possible under the circumstances! We have asked FDA to expedite the development of a standard method of analysis. An ad hoc committee of industry representatives most knowledgeable about PCB's has met informally with FDA officials to discuss the overall problem. We feel this meeting was fruitful and are hopeful that practical and reasonable solutions can be worked out. AFMA has pledged its full cooperation. A government task force on PCB's has been established composed of representatives from FDA, USDA, Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Science and Technology and one or two other groups.

What should you do? Exercise as much caution as possible. Try to avoid possible contamination from outside sources such as lubricants, hydraulic fluids, etc. Check with suppliers of such items. Ask the cooperation of ingredient suppliers but realize that they are also in a "bind" on this problem. If you suspect certain ingredients may have higher background levels, try to avoid using them in feeds that are fed for longer terms - such as layer feeds.

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If you have questions or can supply pertinent information contact Lee Boyd in the AFMA Washington office.

ONCE AGAIN HOFFMAN-TAFF has developed a great pictorial review of the recent Feed Industries Show, National Production School and Annual Convention. We've seen a preview, and it really is exciting and action packed!

All who registered for the "Big Three" will receive a copy in the very near future.

CROP PRODUCTION. As expected, the September Crop Report was slightly below the August report; however, record production in still anticipated.

U.S. corn production is now forecast at 5,266 million bushels - down 1% from the previous estimate. Dry weather in the western corn belt is primarily responsible for the decline. Overall, corn blight has not spread due to weather conditions; however, numerous hot spots still exist in some states.

Soybean production is now forecasted at a record 1,186 million bushels - 4% less than previous month, but 4% (51 million bu.) above 1970. Sorghum estimated at 881 million bushels - 3% below month earlier, and all wheat production is forecasted at 1,625 million bushels - a record high - 2% above last month and 18% above 1970.

NATIONAL DAIRY BEEF FEEDING WORKSHOP. During the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, October 2-6, AFMA is sponsoring a workshop on feeding dairy beef. The workshop will be staged Monday, October 4, in the Exposition Center Arena. Program Chairman will be James Smith, Division President, Milwaukee Stockyards. Participants will include: J.A. Frautchy, Murphy Products Company; Dr. Herb Rebhan, Domain Industries; Dr. J. Zimmerman, Ralston Purina Company; Dr. Robert Bray and Dr. Richard Vatthauer, University of Wisconsin. Theme of the workshop will be: Opportunities in the Dairy Beef Business. Frad Tunks, editor, Dairy Herd Management, is coordinator of three dairy management workshops scheduled from noon to 2:00 p.m. on October 4-5-6. World Dairy Expo is expected to draw 100,000 people.

HEARINGS ON COMPULSORY FARM BARGAINING. Before a jam-packed audience, the House Agriculture Committee began Hearings Monday morning on the controversial Farm Bargaining Bill. More than 50 witnesses are scheduled to testify in Hearings expected to run at least through October 5. AFMA has been invited to testify on Wednesday, September 22. Dean McNeal, Group Vice President of Pillsbury, an AFMA Director and former Chairman of the Board, will present the Association's testimony which will reflect strong opposition to the proposed legislation.

IMPACTS

IMPACTS - AFMA Marketing Seminar - LAST CALL - Don't miss the annual Marketing Seminar because you have not pre-registered!

To learn the importance of the IMPACTS in use of Marketing Intelligence, Market Planning, and People Management, come to St. Louis on September 27-28 at the Stouffer's Riverfront Inn.

Phone your room reservation to Stouffer's NOW (314: 241-9500) and indicate that you will be attending the AFMA Seminar.

Register at the AFMA Seminar Registration Table, Sunday, Sept. 26, 4-9 P.M. or Monday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M. Fee $50 per person, includes all sessions, 2 breakfasts, luncheon, and social hour.

This in-depth Seminar begins with a breakfast at 7:30 A.M., Monday, so join us for a marketing experience you won't forget!

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