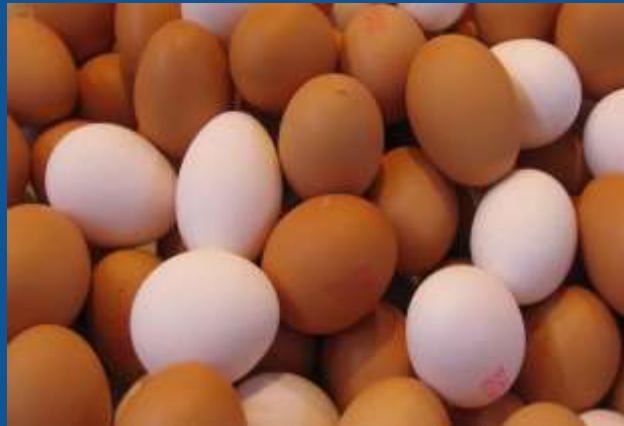


Fipronil in eggs



Ladislav MIKO - Deputy Director General



European
Commission

November 2016



Whistleblowing

Dutch Food Authority informed of illegal use of Fipronil in poultry, but no analytical results, source not established.

2 June 2017



Detection

of Fipronil from an FBO in Belgium (**own checks**).
BE authorities started investigation

6 July 2017



EU Food Fraud Network

Belgium activates **FF network** → request info to the Netherlands

20 July 2017



RASFF Notification

Belgium informs all Member States and the EC
EC starts coordinating

Two priorities:

1. High level of consumer protection

2. Collective enforcement of EU rules

Actions taken

- **Affected farms blocked by Member States authorities**
- Measures to quickly **trace, recall, destroy contaminated products** or animal by-products in the EU
- Note on Fipronil shared with EU global partners to **minimise impacts, including on trade**
- **EU-wide monitoring** exercise on the possible use of illegal substances
- **Judicial investigation** in NL, BE and DE
- Commission to organize **fact finding missions** in most affected Member States

Low public health risk

Only 3 samples out of thousands controlled presented potential health risks levels. These eggs have been withdrawn and farms are under strict controls.

SCIENTIFIC FACTS ON FIPRONIL

- World Health Organisation (WHO) Class II: "**moderately hazardous**", **no genotoxic or carcinogenic** demonstrated (EFSA)*
- **Not authorised in food producing animals**
- **Detection limit: 0.005 mg/kg** in chicken eggs and meat. Corresponds to MRL (Maximum Residue limits)**
- **Potential health risk for levels > 0,72 mg/kg** in eggs and egg-products.

* European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Conclusion regarding the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance fipronil (2006)

** Reg. (EU) 2016/2035, Reg. (EU) No 540/2011, Reg. (EU) No 781/2013

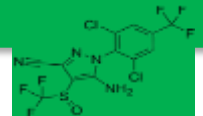


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Fraudulent Scheme

FIPRONIL

- Legal substance** authorised as:
- Veterinary medicinal products for **pets**
 - Biocide, but not for food producing animals
 - Pesticides for seeds → ending September 2017



Sold by a Romanian trader to

Company (BE)

Makes illegal products for poultry by mixing fipronil in legally marketed products:
Some products labelled as "natural extracts"

Pest-control companies

Poultry farms (disinfected)

Poultry farms
Buying directly

Eggs & egg products

**Who knew?
Who is responsible?**

Ongoing judicial investigation in BE, NL and DE

Lessons learned:

- **How do we communicate on risk?**
- **Coordination of risk assessment and risk management approaches**
- **Strengthen residue controls**
- **Reconcile secrecy of judicial investigations with transparency on public health issues**
- **Collectively improve the use & efficiency of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system (AAC) and Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed (RASFF).**





Ministerial meeting on the follow-up to the Fipronil incident - 26 September

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/rasff/fipronil-incident_en

Objectives:

- Take stock and reflect on lessons learned
- Enhance communication between Member States and look for a more coherent and coordinated approach for the future, to prevent such incidents to happen again.



Ministerial meeting's outcome

19 concrete measures to reinforce the EU's action against food fraud e.g.

- Improve risk communication between Member States and Commission making sure it reaches the general public in a more coherent and swift way.
- Ensure rapid common risk assessment when such situations emerge.
- Bridging the gap between the use of Rapid Alert System for food and feed (RASFF) and the Administrative and Cooperation system (AAC).
- Consider how to establish a 'food safety officer' in each Member State to make sure information flows as fast and as efficient as possible.
- Capacity building activities including trainings and regular crisis exercises.



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Thank you for your attention!