



## SUSPENSION OF N & N AGRICULTURE FARM

On 22 March 2005, following routine surveillance tests on local poultry farms, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) found residues of banned compounds (nitrofurans and chloramphenicol) and improper usage of doxycycline in eggs produced by a local farm, N & N Agriculture Farm.

2 As the use of banned antibiotics is an unacceptable farm practice, AVA has immediately suspended N & N Agriculture Farm from selling their eggs and taking any birds or eggs out of the farm. All eggs produced on the farm will be destroyed under AVA supervision. The suspension will remain in place and only be lifted when AVA is satisfied that the farm has fully complied with AVA's requirements.

3 Upon AVA's notification, local supermarkets and other retailers have started to voluntarily withdraw N & N Agriculture Farm eggs from sale.

4 AVA would like to inform those who may have consumed N & N eggs recently that there is no cause for alarm. AVA's earlier routine tests on eggs from the same farm did not detect any residues up to early March this year. The levels of residues of nitrofurans and chloramphenicol in the eggs that tested positive were low, and will not have any adverse health effect unless consumed over a prolonged period. Taking such eggs occasionally or over a short term will not be a health risk.

5 Although N & N Agriculture Farm produces about 8% of our egg supply, the suspension will not cause a shortage of egg supply in the market. Eggs from other local farms and accredited farms in Malaysia can easily make up for any shortfall immediately.

### ***Additional Information***

6 Nitrofurans and chloramphenicol are banned for use in food-producing animals in Singapore and many other countries. Prolonged consumption of food products contaminated with residues of the banned drugs may lead to adverse health effects. Nitrofurans have the potential to cause cancer with long-term use while chloramphenicol could cause blood disorders. Doxycyclines, a member of tetracyclines, can be used in poultry under proper dosage regimes and withdrawal periods. A withdrawal period between the treatment of the animals and the marketing of food products from the treated animals must be followed to ensure that residue levels are within safe limits.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority  
Ministry of National Development  
on 23 March 2005**

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# MEDIA RELEASE