Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore



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SUSPENSION OF SALE OF EGGS FROM N & N AGRICULTURE FARM

On 17 July 2010, following routine surveillance tests on local poultry farms, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) found residues of an antibiotic (doxycycline) in eggs produced by a local farm, N & N Agriculture Farm. As the presence of doxycycline in eggs is a food safety issue, 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 are currently detained, and will be destroyed under AVA's 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 withdraw N & N Agriculture Farm eggs from sale.
- AVA would like to inform those who may have consumed N & N eggs recently that there is no cause for alarm. The levels of doxycycline 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 concern. Consumers who have bought N&N eggs are advised not to consume them.
- N & N Agriculture Farm produces about 9% of our total egg supply. There should not be any impact on the supply of eggs. Eggs from other local farms and accredited farms in Malaysia can easily make up for any shortfall.

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Other local and imported eggs continue to be safe for consumption. Singapore consumes about 4 million eggs a day, of which eggs from local farms constitute about 23%.

In general, antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections. When chickens are under treatment, the eggs are not allowed to be sold. Doxycycline can be used in poultry under proper dosage regimes and withdrawal periods. A withdrawal period between the treatment of the chickens and the sale of eggs from the treated chickens must be complied with to ensure that no doxycycline residues are found in the eggs.

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