

Fipronil - The results known so far confirm that there is currently no threat to public health (07/08/2017)

In the framework of the fipronil case, a number of businesses were blocked preventively, and samples were taken. To date, none of the analysed samples have brought to light any danger for public health. Laying hens farms as well as other (breeding and reproduction) poultry farms were blocked and sampled. Absolute priority was given to egg-producing farms that sell eggs directly to the consumer. In total, 86 poultry farms were blocked preventively, 48 of which are laying hen farms. Yesterday, 57 farms were still blocked. At this time, 51 farms are still blocked, among which 22 laying hens farms. In the meantime, 6 businesses have been released.

Overview of the blocked farms

Type of farm	Initially blocked	Released after investigation	Released after compliant result	Total n° of released farms	Currently blocked
Laying hens	48	7	19	26	22
Others	38	4	5	9	29
Total	86	11	24	35	51
Others: laying hens farms - breeding farms - reproduction farms					
Information about blocked farms					
Type of farm	Currently blocked	Fipronil level below the European limit	No analysis result yet	No samples yet	
Laying hens	22	20	2	0	
Others	29	1	2	26	
Total	51	21	4	26	

Fipronil was found at low concentrations in 21 farms. The highest level of fipronil found so far was 0.092 mg/kg. This means that the concentration of fipronil remains far below the safety threshold of 0.72 mg/kg of eggs. This threshold is determined based on the acute toxicological reference dose (ARfD) fixed

by the EFSA (the amount of fipronil, expressed per kg body weight, which may be ingested in 1 day without causing any health problems) and on data related to European egg consumption by children. This safety threshold applied by the FASFC was confirmed by the European Commission.

26 laying hens farms have already been released, as no contamination could be demonstrated.

There are still 2 laying hens farms for which some of the analysis results are not known yet. The FASFC is doing its best to obtain the results as soon as possible and provide a complete picture, but this depends on the external laboratories.

Besides, a monitoring programme has been initiated in all non-suspected laying hens farms. Approximately 200 laying hens farms are being monitored. Precautionary checks are also carried out in these farms.

The ministers in charge asked the FASFC to provide a detailed report, which is currently being drawn up.