

PREFACE—AGROCHEMICAL RESIDUES IN EGGS

The symposium “Agrochemical Residues in Eggs” was held during the Fall 1999 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans, LA, under the sponsorship of the Agrochemical Division.

A large number of veterinary drugs are being used in modern agriculture farming, principally to prevent the outbreak of disease and improve the growth of animals. Similarly, a wide variety of drugs are also used as growth promoters and as therapeutic agents in poultry farming. Most of these drugs are approved for use in meat-type poultry and, although effective, are not specifically approved for layers producing eggs for human consumption. The unapproved use of these drugs in layers may result in residues in eggs and may pose a potential safety issue to human health. In addition to antimicrobial drugs, the ingestion/exposure of incidental contaminants, such as pesticides, via feed, bedding, and water by laying hens also pose a problem because they may result in residues in eggs that are laid during and after the treatment or exposure. These xenobiotic residues in eggs or in food products derived from egg are of concern because they may be toxic, produce pharmacologic effects on consumers, or cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

It is noteworthy that this symposium represented the first concerted effort dedicated to the conduction of research involving drug and pesticide residues in eggs. There were 14 papers presented; however, only 10 were received for publication as a group in this journal. The symposium papers are organized into three groups. The first group is devoted to the determination and distribution of antimicrobials in egg albumen and yolk (four papers); the second group (three papers) deals with the presentations on pesticide residues in eggs; and the third group (three papers) deals with the mechanism of drug transfer and development of rapid bioassay for the detection of antimicrobial residues in egg yolk. The symposium proved to be a very effective medium for all participants to discuss state of the art developments, to review current problems, and to propose new approaches to the determination and distribution of drug residues in eggs.

I express my gratitude to the participating scientists who ensured the success of this symposium through the high quality of their scientific presentations. I also greatly appreciate the cooperation of Drs. James Seiber and Willis Wheeler, Editor in Chief and Associate Editor for Agrochemicals, respectively, for agreeing to publish the symposium papers as a group in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

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