

Is it safe to eat eggs? - 7 September, 2017

Eggs are a popular food and, each year, about 65 million tonnes of eggs are produced around the world. In Europe, the Netherlands is one of the biggest producers of eggs.

How many eggs are produced each year?

Which country is one of the biggest producers of eggs?

The Netherlands exports 65% of the eggs it produces. More than 40% of all egg exports in the European Union come from the Netherlands and the country exports 12% of the world's eggs.

How many eggs are exported from the Netherlands?

What percentage of eggs in the European Union come from the Netherlands?

What percentage of the world's eggs come from the Netherlands?

There are about 1,000 poultry farms and 35 million chickens in the Netherlands and they produce about 10 billion eggs.

How many poultry farms are there in the Netherlands?

How many chickens are on these farms?

How many eggs are produced by these chickens?

Of course, not everyone eats eggs but, on average, each person in the Netherlands eats 188 eggs a year and eggs are also used to produce other foods such as cakes and biscuits.

What is the average egg consumption in the Netherlands per person?

So, everyone was shocked when they heard in September that some Dutch eggs contained a chemical called fipronil that could be dangerous for people's health. The chemical is often used on farms to kill small insects that live on animals such as cows and sheep. In this case, it was used on some farms to kill insects where chickens lived.

What happened in September?

What is the chemical often used for?

What was fipronil used for in the Netherlands?

Eggs containing the chemical have now been found in 15 European Union countries as well as Switzerland and Hong Kong. Some reports say that there are more than 10 million eggs containing the chemical in the Netherlands and a similar number in Germany.

Where have eggs containing these chemicals been found?

How many eggs have been contaminated and in which countries?

The Dutch government has now closed more than 150 egg-producing farms in the country and supermarkets in the UK and Germany have stopped selling eggs from the Netherlands.

But, scientists say that it is only dangerous for people's health if they eat a large number of eggs containing the chemical.

What has been the response from the Dutch government?

What have supermarkets in the UK and Germany done?

What have scientists said?