



TÖNNIES

Information about the Tönnies Group

07.01.2011

Investigation results have arrived - "Mixed fatty acids in animal feeds"

Preamble

The Tönnies group condemns the criminal misdeeds of those elements who caused the so-called "dioxin crisis" and in so doing, have brought both agriculture and the processor into discredit.

We expect the relevant authorities to offer an unreserved explanation as soon as possible and to adamantly prosecute those responsible for this crisis.

For years, our company has worked together with agriculture and the customer in establishing control systems to guarantee sustained consumer confidence in German quality meats around the world.

We will also continue to support the authorities in order to protect the branches – throughout all levels – from elements which through their criminal actions, cast doubt upon the quality and confidence in German quality meats.

Origin of the current problematic

According to the current stage of the investigation, one animal feed production company has violated all regulations by bringing technical fats, which under no circumstances may be used for animal feed, into commerce.

This has resulted in the current situation, which led the authorities to temporarily suspend individual agricultural businesses for safety reasons on the 3rd of January.

This primarily affects the poultry industry, as well as individual operations keeping cattle or swine.

Further official investigations are currently proceeding at full pace.

What we are doing

The Tönnies Group reacted immediately when the suspension list was made public and monitored the entry of live animals to suspended companies.

Goods from animals stemming from suspended companies were secured by an internal control process and an independent special investigation was conducted.

According to the investigation results which arrived today, at 11:15 on the 7th of January, so far all samples of the precautionarily confiscated goods are negative. This means: these investigation results indicate all values lie distinctly under the official limit values and so are to be considered as safe for human health.

According to reports from Lower Saxony we have available, the values of the investigation results there also lie distinctly below official limits.

Nevertheless, agricultural suppliers who are supposed to have delivered their animals to us for slaughter are required to verify in writing that they are not subject to the official delivery suspension, and that they have not used animal feed from dioxin-tainted feed batches from the stated mixed feed manufacturer for feeding.

As soon as new facts become available, we will provide you with information here.