

CHEESE FOR CITY'S POOR PASSES STATE INSPECTION

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The 551,100 pounds of government surplus cheese to be distributed to poor families in Philadelphia next week has been pronounced in "very good" sanitary condition, after a two-day inspection by the state.

"We have found that all the cheese is very good, in good condition, except for only one container that had a little mold and will not be used," Dean R. Heim, regional director of the state Department of Agriculture, said yesterday. "In that one container, the boxes were ripped open in transport, and a little air got in."

Heim, talking to reporters at a news conference in the offices of the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank, 3360 Stokley St., said the case, holding six 5-pound bricks of cellophane-sealed and boxed American cheese, was the only part of the Philadelphia allotment broken open in transit. In all, he said, a state agricultural inspector examined 155 cases of cheese allotted to Philadelphia. Most of the cheese is being stored inside the warehouse of the food bank, a nonprofit organization that distributes food to the needy.

The cheese, Philadelphia's portion of a 30-million-pound allotment of federal surplus cheese released by President Reagan shortly before Christmas, will be distributed, beginning Monday, in different parts of the city. Civic groups and service agencies will be picking up the cheese from the food bank and distributing it from their own distribution points.

The federal government has given the cheese to the states but has provided no money for distribution or storage. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Agriculture took a 1.6-million-pound allotment, carved it up among the counties and arranged with agencies in each county to handle the distribution.

Barbara Baker Temple, director of the food bank, said that she had taken

requests from each of the groups - more than 200, so far - that will be distributing the cheese, but that not enough cheese was available to meet their demand. As a result, each group's allotment will be cut proportionately, she said.

She said a list of the distribution points for the cheese would be compiled this weekend.

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