

Prairie News

Wet Weather Mycotoxins

Cool, wet weather not only delays harvest but provides optimum conditions for the growth of some specific molds and mycotoxins. Particularly *Fusarium* molds and the associated mycotoxins DDN (Vomitoxin), Zearalenone, and T-2 toxin.

As of November 6th, Dairyland Labs has already confirmed 39 positive tests for DDN, 10 for Zearalenone, and 2 for T-2 toxin.

DDN appears to be the most prevalent mycotoxin this year, and probably has the least affect on dairy cattle. While research has shown an association between DDN and poor performance in dairy cattle, no cause and effect relationship has been established.

Some published research has shown that dairy cattle fed DDN contaminated feed had reduced intakes, lower milk production, and reduced weight gain. However, the presence of DDN may simply be an indicator of low quality grain.

Zearalenone, on the other hand, can have dramatic effects on reproduction because it can mimic the effects of estrogen. In published research, the effects have ranged from a 25% reduction in conception rate (40ppb ZEN) to total reproductive failure (750ppm ZEN).

T-2 toxin has not been thoroughly studied in dairy cattle but

field observations suggest that it affects cows transitioning into lactation and also causes intestinal irritation.

So what do we do if we suspect a mold or mycotoxin problem? First, look for signs of *Fusarium*



***Fusarium* mold grows well in cool and wet weather**

mold which shows up as ear and stalk rot in corn. Also, don't overlook the appearance of mold in soybeans. Pay particular attention to fields that are not rotated annually or have had minimum tillage.

Then send a sample to a reputable laboratory for a mold count and identification, and talk with your feed consultant about which molds warrant further testing.

The FDA recommends not feeding grains with more than 10 ppm Vomitoxin, and not to exceed 50% of the ration. In practical

application, its difficult to establish a "safe" feeding level because mold distribution in sporadic and obtaining a truly representative sample is nearly impossible.

A few feeding strategies are worth considering.

- 1) Dilute the contaminated feed. Feeding small amounts of contaminated feed will reduce the concentration of mycotoxins and lessen their effect on performance.
- 2) Feed the worst feed 1st. Molds and mycotoxins will not disappear in storage, and can potentially get much worse. Feeding the most contaminated feed 1st may reduce the total amount of mycotoxins you will feed throughout the year.
- 3) Treat ensiled feeds to prevent mold growth. Feeds that are wet enough to undergo a full fermentation would benefit from *L. Buchneri* inoculants. Drier feeds would benefit from propionic acid.

For more information on the relationship of molds and mycotoxins download our 2nd Quarter 2009 Newsletter at prairieagsupplyllc.com

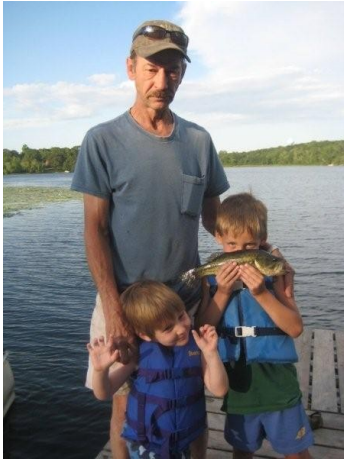
Keys to Mold

Management

- > Prevent further mold growth by treating with *L. Buchneri* or Propionic Acid
- > Minimize exposure to oxygen during storage and feedout
- > Dilute contaminated feeds to minimize the effects.

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Jeff and his grandsons enjoy fishing together.

Employee Profile—Jeff Ableidinger

Jeff has been a part of the Prairie Ag family for over 20 years. His extensive experience makes him a valuable member of the manufacturing team where his responsibilities range from unloading semis to blending mineral and protein mixes.

A lot has changed at Prairie Ag since his first day in 1989. Jeff's favorite day was in 1998 when

much of the manufacturing moved from the historic feed mill (parts of which date back to 1875) to the new labor efficient facility. The addition of two new mixers and increased automation dramatically reduced the amount of physical labor required to manufacture bulk mixes.

Jeff is the proud father of four

children: Tabettha-33, Sommer-32, Kiley-29, and Brandi-27. He also has twelve grandchildren.

Outside of work, Jeff spends much of his time camping and fishing near Amery, WI. He also has a lot of fun playing at home with his grandson, Noah.



Milk replacers with Neoterramycin will not be available after 1st quarter 2010

The End of Neoterramycin?

The manufacturers of Neoterramycin 2:1 (the concentration used in milk replacers) have discontinued production and the current inventories are expected to run out in the 1st quarter of 2010.

Neoterramycin will still be available in a very high 1:1 concentration and a very low 1:1 concentration, but neither will be a strong option for milk replacers. There is no data to support using the very low level in milk replacers,

and the higher level will be cost prohibitive.

Fortunately there are proven alternatives for scour prevention. Both Deccox and Bovatec are proven to be effective in preventing Coccidiosis.

Also, 5 of 5 peer reviewed research studies have shown that additional essential fatty acids in milk replacers reduces the days with scours and improves average daily gain. While essential

fatty acids may not prevent scours, they do serve a supportive role in immune function as well as muscle and bone growth.

In the future, focus on scours prevention and look for milk replacers with proven research in reducing scours. Prairie Ag Supply offers a variety of milk replacer options including custom mixes. Contact your Prairie Ag Consultant for more information



Deep bedding with straw reduces the need for additional milk replacer in cold weather.

Cold Weather Milk Replacer Rates

Over the last 30+ years the Eau Claire airport's average temperature for December-February has been 16°F. Depending on their environment, your calves may have higher energy requirements during these months.

Using NRC calf calculations, at 50°F, 1 lb of 20:20 milk replacer (MR) provides enough energy for a calf to gain 0.28lbs per day. At 16°F it takes 1.28lbs of MR to produce the same amount of gain.

Under an accelerated program, at 50°F, 1.5 lbs of 26:17 MR provides enough energy for 1.12 lbs of gain per day. At 16°F it takes 1.78 lbs of MR to produce the same amount of gain.

That said, keeping calves warm is generally a more economical way of maintaining growth rates. Deep bedding with straw traps the calf's body heat and creates a much warmer microenvironment for the calf.

Akey has published data showing

that during winter weather calves bedded with straw gain 5-12% faster than calves bedded with dry, hardwood shavings.

Also keep in mind that feeding additional milk replacer beyond 3 weeks of age will depress starter intake and reduce post-weaning gain and feed efficiency.

In extreme cold, 1st consider deep bedding with straw, then add up to 0.3 lbs of powder for calves less than 3 weeks old.

Text Message Options

Have you ever forgot to order feed before a Holiday? Or forgot when the Route Truck was in your area? Do you get tired of us calling every two weeks to remind you?

Recently updated features on

our website allow us to send text messages to any phone number in our customer database. If you would prefer a text message reminder of upcoming Holidays and Route Truck deliveries let us know.

Vote in the latest poll on our homepage at prairieagsupplyllc.com or give us a call at 1-800-535-4485 and we can get you started.

FSA Loan Programs

The USDA Farm Service Agency is offering a Direct Loan Program as well as a Guaranteed Loan Program to assist farmers who are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. This may be an opportunity to secure financing for debts to vendors at a much lower interest rate.

Each program has its own advantages as well as special requirements. To qualify for either program an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the U.S. (or legal resident alien)
- Have the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere without a FSA guarantee
- Have an acceptable credit history (determined by FSA or the lender)
- Be the owner, operator, or tenant of a family farm after the loan is closed.
- Not be delinquent on any Federal debt.

Direct Loan Program

The Direct Loan Program is designed to help farmers receive credit until they are qualified to

receive credit from a private, commercial lender. Specific programs exist for emergencies, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and youths.

In order to receive a direct loan from FSA the farmer must also:

- Have sufficient education, training, or experience in managing and operating a farm or ranch that demonstrates the managerial ability needed to succeed at farming.
- Refinance with a private lender when financially able to do so
- Complete farm and financial training courses or demonstrate adequate knowledge and ability in the subject areas covered.
- Provide updated financial information periodically and participate in an annual review of their operation by FSA.
- Operate their farms in an environmentally sound manner, complying with highly erodible land and wetland policies.

Guaranteed Loan Program

These loans are funded and serviced by private and commercial lenders who are then guaranteed up to 95% of the loans value.

Under this type of loan the interest rate and payment terms can be negotiated between the lender and the borrower. Also, FSA will subsidize 4 percent of the interest rate on the loans to qualifying borrowers.

Special qualifications:

- Must not have caused FSA a loss by receiving debt forgiveness on more than 3 occasions.
- FSA determines whether the collateral proposed by the lender is adequate

For More Information

Contact your FSA county office. These offices are listed in telephone directories in the section for governmental and public organizations under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. Local FSA offices can also be located by accessing <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=fsa>



Let us know your opinion at prairieagsupplyllc.com

“This may be an opportunity to secure financing for debts too vendors at a much lower interest rate.”

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Clynt, Bow 2009



Joe, Bow 2009



Submit Your Buck Pics!

Unclekurts.com is up and running and we're looking for your 2009 buck pictures. Bow season, gun season, muzzleloader, and trail cameras, we want to see your buck pictures on Unclekurts.com

Drop your pictures off at Prairie Ag Supply or email them to us at info@unclekurt's.com



Kurt Bow 2009

Volume I Issues IV



Mike, Bow 2009