

# Prairie News

## Mold + Heat = Mycotoxins

As the temperatures begin to heat up, be sure to keep an eye out for molds. While some level of mold is always present in forages, warm temperatures increase their rate of growth. As molds grow they produce mycotoxins that can cause reduced feed intakes, abortions, and hemorrhagic bowel syndrome. Specific mycotoxins like DON and Fusaric acid can even change animal behavior because of their effects on Serotonin and Dopamine production.

Feeders should be especially aware of blue, green, and red colored molds as they have the most detrimental effects on animal performance. In general blue/green molds are associated with kidney damage and respiratory problems. Red molds can be associated with hemorrhaging and reproductive disor-

ders, while blue/grey molds commonly cause abortions and Farmer's Lung.

While each mold produces a variety of mycotoxins, specific mycotoxins are expensive to



**Mycotoxins are the product of mold metabolism.**

identify. Regardless of which type of mycotoxin you have, there are two basic solutions.

First, dilute the concentration in the diet. Mixing in other forages and separating as much moldy

silage as possible can help. However, be aware that mold clumps together and pockets of mold may exist in the TMR.

Second, use one or more of the mycotoxin binding ingredients available. Clays, aluminosilicates, glucomannans, and MOS products all work in different ways to capture mycotoxins and help them pass through the digestive tract while minimizing their effects. Ask your feed consultant which product or combination of products would be best for your situation.

Of course the best cure is prevention. Quickly eliminating oxygen during ensiling, using a mold inhibiting inoculant like *L. Buchneri*, and maximizing the feedout rate will help prevent mold production in any silage.

current nutrition technology and time tested ingredients.

Other features include:

- Roasted Soybeans and Soybean Meal for Amino Acid Balance
- Superior Palatability
- B Vitamins plus A,D3, and E
- Nutritionally Balanced

## Special Pricing Extended!

Special Pricing on Prairie Calf 18% and 20% has been extended through June 30, 2009.

Due to the success of our 1st quarter promotion, you can still receive 100lbs of free calf feed with every order of 500lbs or more.

Prairie Calf feeds are formulated to maximize the health and performance of your calves, utilizing

- Great source of digestible fiber
- Medicated with Rumensin © to prevent coccidiosis and promote efficient growth.

To get your free 100lbs of Prairie Calf 18% or 20% contact your Prairie Ag Nutrition Consultant or call 1-800-535-4485.

### Timely Topics

- > Spring is the best time to supplement Deer Mineral.
- > As temperatures heat up, so does mold growth.
- > Planting short day corn may not be the best solution for early feeding.
- > Take advantage of technologies that maintain forage quality; Biotal Inoculants and Silostop bunker covers

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Feedback is about more than utilizing feed refusals.

## Make Feedback Effective

Giving feedback to employees about their performance is a sensitive but crucial part of any employee/employer relationship. People crave feedback. We want to know if we are living up to expectations and what we can do to improve our performance.

Try these steps to provide effective feedback.

1) **Define good performance.** Describe the way you would like a particular task completed or a specific goal you have for your

team.

2) **Describe the current performance or behavior.** Explain exactly what is currently happening. Remember to focus on behaviors and not people. Make sure the difference between the current performance and the desired one is clear.

3) **Follow up by asking questions.** Ask what can be done to change the situation or behavior. Use the entire team to find new solutions.

4) **Gain team commitment.** Once you've discussed possible solutions, gain a team consensus on which solutions to implement. A team commitment makes it more likely that individuals will be committed to the desired changes.

By using these steps when providing feedback your team will have a clear understanding of the goals while building trust and accountability within the team.

## Focus on Forage Quality

It's warming up, corn planting is wrapping up, soybeans are getting planted, and 1st crop hay is right around the corner!!! With the recent movements in the markets, dairy farmers are looking for ways to increase profitability.

One way to do this is to really concentrate on putting up high-quality forages. By improving the quality of the forage, you bring more digestible nutrients into the ration and minimize the need for purchased ingredients.

There are 3 main areas of focus when it comes to forage harvesting: harvesting at the proper maturity and moisture, length of chop, and storage. It is time to start monitoring hay fields now, for growth and maturity so you can get started before it matures to far.

At the same plant height, the RFV changes 10 points for each change in stage of maturity. For example, 200 RFV in the vegeta-

tive stage, 190 in the bud stage, and 180 at flower. Every day that cutting is delayed can be a 5-10 point decrease in RFV once optimum maturity is reached.

Length of chop is important as the forage needs to be long enough to be effective in the rumen, but short enough to pack well in storage and handle and mix easily with other feeds at feeding time.

Storage is an area that you have a large opportunity to ensure quality feed is made. The use of a reputable silage inoculant can provide a profitable return on investment. A good inoculant shortens the fermentation period of the silage so that the temperature is reduced as well as the duration. This results in more Dry Matter of the silage, as well as maintaining the quality of the feed you initially harvested.

Prairie Ag Supply has two different products to help with the storage process. One is Biotol

Silage Inoculant, manufactured by Lallemand Animal Nutrition. Biotol has been extensively researched and proven to be a viable product that provides a \$3 return for every \$1 invested.

The other is the Silostop oxygen barrier system. This is a new type of silage cover that is impermeable to oxygen, which helps reduce the surface spoilage on silage piles, proving to be 20-times more effective than a standard cover.

The investment in these products and technologies will more than pay for itself in the quality of the silage you have to feed your cows later in the year. Feel free to contact your Prairie Ag representative or myself for further information and pricing.

Thanks, and have a safe harvesting season!!!

Chad McEathron



With proper moisture and packing, Silostop can virtually eliminate surface spoilage.



## Fat Model? An AAMPS Update

Prairie Ag Supply nutrition consultants have a new tool for analyzing the fatty acid profile and milk fat depression risk of your dairy rations.

Omega 6 and Omega 3 fatty acids have received a lot of press recently for their effects on reproductive performance. Proper supplementation of these fatty acids has been shown to improve pregnancy rates and reduce uterine abnormalities and infections.

Now, with the use of AAMPS Fat Model, we can measure the fatty acid profile of the entire ration. Plus, we can predict the flow of fatty acids to the intestine, where they are absorbed.

Another feature of the new AAMPS Fat model is the Milk Fat Depression Index. This index takes into consideration a variety of nutritional factors known to depress milk fat including: peNDF, NFC degradability, rumen unsaturated fatty acids, monen-

sin, degradable protein balance, peptide balance, and NPNPAA.

That may sound like a lot of jargon but it's all part of the index that can now be used to predict whether a feed change will result in milk fat depression.

This update is just one part of Prairie Ag Supply's ongoing effort to bring you the best nutrition information and tools available.

**"Omega 3 and Omega 6 Fatty Acids have received a lot of press recently"**

## When NOT to plant short-day corn..

If you're planning to harvest some corn silage for early feeding or green chopping, avoid short day varieties.

Short day corn hybrids tend to be genetically based on flinty corn types. The corn in these varieties develops a hard seed coat that makes them largely indigestible without fine grinding

or extended periods of time in silage acids.

In general, longer day corn has more floury type kernels, making them easier for rumen bacteria to break down.

Once corn silage has been ensiled for over 90 days, at greater than 65% moisture, the

differences in corn digestibility will be negligible. However, if you're chopping corn silage for early feeding or green chopping, stick to longer day hybrids for better results.

## Employee Profile—Betty Lemler

Betty Lemler has been the voice of Prairie Ag Supply since March 2nd 1986, when it was known as Rusk Feed & Farm Supply.

As the office manager she not only answers the phones but is also in charge of all the book keeping for accounts payable, payroll, and accounts receivable.

Besides being extremely organized she has an uncanny ability

to recognize hundreds of people by the sound of their voice. She claims that her sharp mind can be attributed to her hobbies of reading and playing jeopardy.

Originally from St. James Missouri, Betty is the proud mother of 3 children: Lisa-40, Micheal-35, Natasha-23, and 2 step-daughters: Lori and Christina. She and her husband, Gary, now

reside in Albertville, WI.

Betty's persistent smile and upbeat attitude make her a pleasure to work with. When asked why she enjoys working at Prairie Ag Supply so much she replies, "The great people I work with, the best bosses I've ever had, and a fabulous client base—the backbone of our country-farmers."

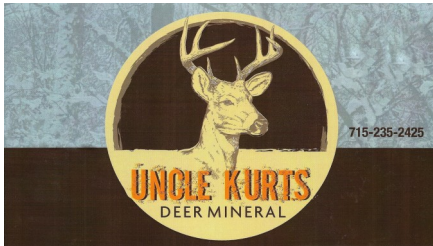


**Many short-day varieties are genetically based on flinty type corn.**



**Betty Lemler has been our Office Manager since 1986.**

Prairie Ag Supply LLC



We're on the web  
[Prairieagsupplyllc.com](http://Prairieagsupplyllc.com)

Try the mineral that our employees have been using for years! **Uncle Kurt's Deer Mineral.** Spring is the most important time for deer to have adequate mineral supply. With bucks rapidly growing antlers, and does in the late stages of gestation, mineral supplementation is important for maximizing the whole herd's performance.

66565 629th Avenue  
 Menomonie, WI 54751

### May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- Route #1: Chippewa Falls, Elk Mound
- Route #2: Menomonie, Colfax, Bloomer
- Route #3: Durand, Mondovi, Pepin, Alma
- Route #4: Stanley, Cadott, Cornell, Gilman
- Route #5: Eleva, Foster, Osseo
- Route #6: Spring Valley, Ellsworth, Baldwin
- Route #7: Exeland, Bruce, Ladysmith