



United States Department of Agriculture
Risk Management Agency

September 2008

Raleigh Regional Office Fact Sheet

Aflatoxin

Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

If you suspect your insured crop has aflatoxin:

Insureds should notify their insurance agent **before** harvesting and/or placing harvested grain in storage if their grain is suspected of containing aflatoxin. Crop insurance adjusters are to obtain samples for mycotoxin testing from selected representative sample areas of the fields. The adjuster will submit the samples to an insurance provider approved testing facility for aflatoxin verification. The impact of high levels of aflatoxin on producers varies from a discount in price to the requirement to destroy the grain altogether.

Moisture stress, insect damage, and high-temperature stress are major determining factors in mold infestation and aflatoxin contamination in certain unharvested crops. Aflatoxin contamination can be harmful to humans and animals at certain levels. Accordingly, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established action levels for aflatoxin present in food or feed. Post-harvest aflatoxin contamination can increase during storage and if crop drying is delayed. Insect or rodent infestations could also facilitate mold invasion of some stored commodities such as corn, peanuts, and cottonseed.

Aflatoxin losses are insurable as long as the grain is tested before being moved into commercial or on farm storage, or if the insured has arranged with the insurance provider to leave representative areas of unharvested crop from which the adjuster can obtain samples for aflatoxin testing. Because mold can worsen in storage, losses attributed to farm storage or that cannot be determined because proper testing was not completed, are not covered under the crop insurance policy.

Aflatoxin Testing Facilities

Following is a list of certified testing facilities for aflatoxin in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia according to the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). This is not a complete list and should only serve as a guide. To be an “approved testing facility” for crop insurance purposes, the following criteria must be met. Testing facilities not listed, which meet all the criteria below can be considered “approved testing facilities.” Consult with your crop insurance provider for more information.

1. The facility must be able to perform quantitative tests on grain, itemizing results in parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). Test kits used must be certified by GIPSA.
2. The facility must be a recognized commercial, government, or university testing lab that uses industry-recognized sample sizes, equipment, and procedures for testing aflatoxin.
3. The facility must be a disinterested testing facility. A disinterested testing facility is a facility not involved in buying or selling the production in question.

Certified Testing Facilities:

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Food Quality Assurance Program
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 841-5769

(continued)

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Elizabeth City Lab - 407G South Griffin Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
(252) 337-9782
(252) 337-9784, fax

Fayetteville Lab - 1650 River Road
Fayetteville, NC 28310
(910) 486-1630
(910) 437-2584, fax

Raleigh Lab - 1400 South Blount Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 733-4491
(919) 773-9215, fax

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Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

501 C Barnes Road
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(757) 494-2464
(757) 494-2463, fax

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Maumee, OH 43537
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(419) 893-2861, fax

Please contact the RMA Raleigh Regional Office if you have any further questions at:

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