

# Disaster Relief

## *Feeding Water-Damaged Feeds*

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Wet feeds may produce mold spores, some of which are toxic to certain livestock. The best option is not to feed water-damaged feed to any of your livestock. But if you must feed wet or flood-damaged feed, proceed with extreme caution. Watch animals carefully for signs of illness. Heated or spoiled mixed feeds, grains, and roughages have little nutritive value for livestock, depending on the extent of the damage.

- Do not feed heated, badly molded or sour feeds, or moldy legume hays (such as alfalfa or clover) to any livestock.
- Spread wet feeds out to dry as soon as possible. You can feed limited amounts of dried feeds to beef cattle and young dairy stock.
- Use extreme caution when feeding moldy protein concentrates.
- Mix moldy feed with 90 to 95 percent sound feeds at first. Watch cattle carefully.
  - Beef cattle on full feed may go off feed.
  - Milk production in dairy cattle may be lowered.
  - Some animals may develop respiratory or nervous disorders from inhaling mold spores.
- Do not feed moldy feed to horses, sheep, swine, or pregnant cattle; the animals may die.
- Water spreads some diseases.
  - Any flooded feed could be contaminated, even when dried.
  - Watch animals for signs of nervousness, listlessness, going off feed, and general unthriftiness. Contact a veterinarian if you see any of these symptoms

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