



Molds and Mycotoxins by Ki Fanning, PhD Nutritionist

Management

- Use Inoculants
- Pack well
- Cover the pile
- Feed a toxin binder, flow agent or conditioner
- Monitor feed intake
- Blend with other unaffected feeds

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The 2009 harvest season has proven to be one of the most difficult in recent memory and we will have to deal with the results for the next twelve months. The wet corn left in the fields would seem to be a good feed source. However; much of the corn that has been harvested and that has yet to be harvested as earlage or high moisture corn has had mold growth. These molds produce toxins that may have detrimental effects on performance. Insect damage and other stresses on the plant increase potential for mold growth.

Distillers grains will not destroy the toxins, in fact the process will triple the concentration of toxins just as it does the protein. Gluten feed on the other hand is a product that comes from a food grade plant; therefore, the corn is carefully screened prior to entry into the system. This ensures that the products manufactured for human consumption are not contaminated; consequently neither is the gluten feed.

Aflatoxin is the most well known and researched toxin. Aflatoxin is considered a carcinogen and therefore, is regulated by the FDA. If over 20 ppb in corn, the corn is considered contaminated for dairy cattle; milk must contain less than 0.5 ppb. Symptoms of aflatoxin poisoning are: reduced growth, abnormal blood clotting, hemorrhaging, jaundice, reduced immune function, and death.

Zearalenone is as an estrogenic compound that may either cause animals to display a constant heat or may inhibit cyclic activity. Therefore, if developing breeding stock, grains contaminated with zearalenone should not be fed. Zearalenone contamination is a strong possibility this year because of the lower temperatures and the wet



weather we have had. The symptoms of this toxin are: reduced conception rates, poor feed efficiency, swelling of female reproductive organs, reduced milk production, reduced growth rate, and increased morbidity or mortality. **Vomitoxin** is produced by the pink mold that grows in warm rainy weather. Lower temperatures may increase toxin production once the corn or small grain is infected. This toxin's symptoms include diarrhea, reduced reproduction, vomiting, reduced growth, milk production or egg production, poor feed efficiency, neurological problems, and increased morbidity or mortality. **Fumonisin** is more prevalent during periods of high humidity when preceded by hot and dry weather. Fumonisin cause leucoencephalomalacia in horses and pulmonary edema and liver damage in

swine. Cattle and sheep are not affected to as great of an extent, however liver damage may still occur. Poultry are even more resistant than cattle and sheep.

The **T-2 Toxin** causes digestive upsets, hemorrhage of the intestine, poor growth and feed efficiency, bloody diarrhea, and an increase in morbidity and mortality.

If the corn must be used for feed, please consider these suggestions. If it is going to be ensiled use an inoculant, pack well, and cover the pile (do everything possible to promote fermentation). **Feed a toxin binder, flow agent or conditioner (call for more information on this)**. Monitor dry matter intake as many of these toxins will reduce intake slightly and can be detected if intakes are monitored. The incidence of bullers may increase either due to estrogenic compounds or a reduced intake of MGA. It is very important to test for mycotoxins. Blend the feed with other unaffected feeds to lower dietary levels of mycotoxins. For additional information, testing supplies, or diet formulation please contact your **Sioux Nation Field Marketer** or give **Ki Fanning** a call at (402) 781-9378.

Feedlot Lameness by Mick Harding, DVM



When cattle suspected of having foot rot are not responding to your normal therapy, toe abscesses need to be considered. This is especially true during the first month in the feedyard. In my experience, toe abscesses are more common than foot rot in the feedyard. Many animals are often involved and wilder cattle seem to be more prone.

Toe abscesses are normally attributed to trauma. These cattle often have a history of

being driven to a gathering point, trucked to point of sale, unloaded, sorted, sold, penned, loaded on a truck, arrival at feedyard, and then processed. All of this activity offers lots of opportunities for trauma.

When treating calves with a sore foot I recommend LA Pro 300. If there is no response within 3 days I recommend picking up and examining the lame foot. Usually the outside claw is the one ex-

periencing the abscess. Opening of the tip of the toe with a hoof knife is curative. These cattle will remain lame for 2-3 more weeks and another dose of LA Pro300 is recommended. By opening up the toe we prevent the infection from moving up the leg to joints or into the bloodstream. If not handled properly toe abscesses can cause death or debilitating lameness leaving no salvage value to the calf.

Reminder!

- If you are within a month and a half of calving now is the time to switch to a calving/breeder mineral!



Keys to Louse Control

Whether or not we like it winter is quickly approaching and that means louse season is on its way. Louse are typically a winter problem and decrease in the spring when cattle start to lose their winter coats.

Damage induced by louse goes way further than rough looking cattle or missing patches of hair. Economic losses can come in the form of damaged facilities due to excessive rub-

bing, anemic cattle, decreased weight gains, decreased immune function, abortions and in some cases even death.

There are a number of products on the market including dips, sprays, pour-ons, spot-ons and injectibles as well as dusts and back rubbers.

Undoubtedly the best control is achieved when using pour-ons.

Not only is what you use an important factor in louse control but when you use it is equally important. Pouring cattle in December will almost guarantee 100% control when using an ivermectin product.



December Specials!!

. Sioux Steel Gates - 10% off

- 10 ft Corral Panels \$110
- 12 ft Corral Panels \$124

Precision Cattle Minerals

- Gestation \$15.48
- Calving/Breeder \$18.38
- Calving/Brdr with CTC \$20.25
- Co-Prod Cow Mineral \$15.15

Exacta Tub Refills

- 20% 50# Refill \$14.90
- 30% 50# Refill \$16.58

(Call for more information)

CTC 10 gram crumbles

- \$16.25 per 50# bag

Potassium Pen G

- .500bu \$12.25 per packet

This is a good time to start thinking about stocking up on your calving supplies. Check out **Sioux Nation's** everyday low prices and committed service.