

Managing the aflatoxin challenge in 2022 feed ingredients



Prolonged drought throughout Europe during this year's growing season has created optimal conditions for the development of higher - than - normal aflatoxin challenges in grains and forages. Produced by the *Aspergillus* mould, aflatoxin B1 is the most well-known and researched mycotoxin due to its highly toxic and carcinogenic effects, both for farm animals and humans.

The impact of aflatoxins

When lactating cattle ingest aflatoxins in contaminated feed, toxic metabolites can form and be present in milk. These metabolites are potentially significant contaminants in dairy products for human consumption. The European regulatory limit for aflatoxin levels in milk for human consumption cannot exceed 0.05 parts per billion (ppb), meaning complete feedstuffs are limited to 5ppb when used in dairy diets. This year's drought conditions in Europe could potentially make this mandate a real challenge for many local farms to meet.

Key steps in addressing the aflatoxin challenge

- 1. Feed contamination:** Understand the level of mycotoxin contamination in the feeds you are using. Both Alltech RAPIREAD™ and Alltech 37+® can be used to identify contamination levels. As well as testing primary ingredients, such as corn or corn silage, other feeds, such as distillers dried grains or corn gluten meal, can also harbour aflatoxin.
- 2. Milk contamination:** Linked to Alltech RAPIREAD, Neogen's Raptor test device can be used to test milk for the presence of aflatoxin M1. Consult your local Alltech representative for more information on this.

THE IMPACT OF AFLATOXINS



Reduced milk yield and performance



Inhibits protein synthesis



Reduced immunity — Increased susceptibility to infection



Liver damage



Carcinogenicity



Transference of aflatoxin residues into the milk

- 3. Feed management:** Understand the risk points for mould growth and mycotoxin contamination in your operation. Good silage and feed management can prevent the development of additional mycotoxin contamination in stored feeds and help keep TMRs clean and milk free of contaminants.
- 4. Use alternative clean forages and raw materials:** This can be accomplished with alternative available forages and grains, such as alfalfa hay/silage, wheat, barley or commercial protein supplements, which have tested negative for aflatoxin. Ensure you work with your nutrition provider to maintain an energy and protein balance that meets the cow's maintenance and production requirements.
- 5. Include a mycotoxin adsorbent in your feeds:** Mycotoxin adsorbents such as Mycosorb A+® or Dairy AF help mitigate the effects of mycotoxins on animal performance while also helping to reduce the transfer of aflatoxin to the milk supply. Product choice and inclusion rates will vary between specific scenarios and contamination levels in feeds. Work with your nutritionist or feed supplier to identify the appropriate option for your situation.



Signs of Aspergillus mould in grains and forages

MYCOSORB A+®

A proven broad-spectrum solution to managing the mycotoxin challenge

Containing both yeast and algae, Mycosorb A+ is a broad-spectrum mycotoxin binder designed to reduce mycotoxin absorption within the animal. It is proven to offset the risks to health and productivity that are associated with mycotoxin-induced damage. In addition to contributing to the control of mycotoxins, Mycosorb A+ also helps to support immune function and gut health within the animal.

Inclusion rate: 10–30 g per head per day in dairy animals*

Country specific contact details
Country specific contact details
Country specific contact details

knowmycotoxins.com

DAIRY AF

A specific solution to managing higher risk aflatoxin challenges

In addition to containing yeast and algae, Dairy AF includes a higher level of bentonite clay than Mycosorb A+. This product has been designed to help manage the highest-risk aflatoxin challenges, where there is a real risk of aflatoxin transference to the milk supply and the risk of exceeding the regulatory limits. Where Dairy AF is being used, it is crucial to ensure cows receive sufficient doses of vitamins and minerals.

Inclusion rate: 50–150 g per head per day in dairy animals*

With both Mycosorb A+ and Dairy AF, it is important to act early and avoid aflatoxin being absorbed and transferred into the milk supply.*

***Inclusion rates will depend on individual farm situations. Please contact your local Alltech representative to identify the most appropriate solution for your herd.**