

Guide for Mycotoxins In Dairy

Approximate Range for Potential Reaction for Feeding Various Mycotoxins			
MYCOTOXIN	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
DON (vomitoxin)	< 0.30 ppm	0.30-1.00 ppm	> 1.00 ppm
Zearalenone	< 100 ppb	100 - 300 ppb	> 300 ppb
Aflatoxin	< 10 ppb	10 - 30 ppb	> 30 ppb
T-2	< 75 ppb	75 - 200 ppb	> 200 ppb
Fumonisin	< 0.60 ppm	0.60 - 1.50 ppm	> 1.50 ppm

Qualifiers

- Multiple mycotoxins will compound potential effects.
- Toxic effect may be increased by body condition, health challenges, or stress.
- Mycotoxins are not uniformly distributed in feedstuffs.
- Small samples yield high test errors and underestimate mycotoxin contamination rate.
- Low-level test results may still be cause for pro-active response.

Representative Symptoms

DON (vomitoxin)	Zearalenone	Aflatoxin	T-2 toxin	Fumonisin
Reduced feed intake / feed refusal	Hyper-estrogenism	Liver damage; altered protein synthesis	Reduced feed intake	Reduced feed intake
Reduced milk production; reduced milk fat	Poor reproductive performance	Decreased appetite/ off feed	Intestinal hemorrhages	Reduced milk production
Poor reproductive performances	• Short cycle heats • Cystic cows; follicular cysts • Twinning cows; multiple ovulations	Lower milk protein	Frequent defecation	GI tract ulceration
Elevated SCC	• Vaginitis • Enlarged mammary glands in virgin heifers	Impaired immune function	Bloody diarrhea	Impaired immune function
Impaired immune function		Increased disease rates	Absence of estrous	
Loose, inconsistent manure		Highly interactive	Impaired immune function	
		Rough hair coat	Increased disease rates	

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