

Guide for Mycotoxins In Dairy

Approximate Risk Ranges for Dietary Mycotoxin Contamination			
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	Lower milk protein	Frequent defecation	GI tract ulceration
Elevated SCC	• Cystic cows; follicular cysts	Impaired immune function	Bloody diarrhea	Impaired immune function
Impaired immune function	• Twinning cows; multiple ovulations	Increased disease rates	Absence of estrous	
Loose, inconsistent manure	• Vaginitis	Highly interactive	Impaired immune function	
	• Enlarged mammary glands in virgin heifers	Rough hair coat	Increased disease rates	

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