



Aflatoxin Challenges

Due to the drought in many areas of the country this year, the presence of Aflatoxins in corn based products has increased significantly. Aflatoxins are naturally occurring mycotoxins that are produced by many species of *Aspergillus*, a fungus. Aflatoxin, (M1) can be found in milk when animals are fed contaminated feeds, which creates a potential threat to humans. FDA has established action levels for Aflatoxin present in food to protect human and animal health.

Milk companies are checking closely for Aflatoxins in milk and a producer can lose their milk market if Aflatoxin is traced to their dairy. While most of the crops in the Northeast do not contain Aflatoxin, stocks from other regions may contain varying levels. These can be found in corn grain and grain byproducts including distillers, brewers, distillers syrups, etc.

At CVAS, we have several options for testing for Aflatoxin. Aflatoxins can be tested by ELISA methods. This is an approved method for grains and byproducts and offers quick turnaround time, often 1 to 2 days. ELISA is not an approved method for forages. However, we can utilize this method as a quick and inexpensive guide to possible contamination, reporting results as potentially 'Low, Moderate or High'. Aflatoxin by ELISA is \$25 per sample.

Aflatoxin can also be tested by HPLC, which is the gold standard for evaluating for Aflatoxin. This test is part of our mycotoxin screen (\$67.75). We can provide just the Aflatoxin analysis by HPLC for \$38.50 per sample. Turnaround time is 4 to 5 business days for Aflatoxin by HPLC.

Please feel free to contact us at CVAS to determine the most appropriate approach for testing your samples.

