

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

February 7, 2012

Attention Pennsylvania Feed Manufacturers and Grain Distributors:

Extremely wet growing conditions during August, September and October this past year have been favorable for Gibberella Ear Rot in the 2011 corn crop in Pennsylvania. The fungus *Fusarium graminearum* may produce several mycotoxins, including deoxynivalenol (DON) in infected corn. Chemicals produced by this fungus are toxic to livestock and humans. FDA has established advisory levels for the mycotoxin, deoxynivalenol (DON) in food and animal feed.

VOMITOXIN – (DON)

Class of Animal	Feed Ingredients & Portion of Diet	DON Levels in Grains & Grain By-products and (Finished Feed)
**Ruminating beef and feedlot cattle older than 4 months	Grain and grain by-products not to exceed 50% of the diet	**10ppm (10ppm in beef) (5ppm in dairy)
Chickens	Grain and grain by-products not to exceed 50% of the diet	10ppm (5ppm)
Swine	Grain and grain by-products not to exceed 20% of the diet	5ppm (1ppm)
All other animals	Grain and grain by-products not to exceed 40% of the diet	5ppm (2ppm)
Humans	Finished wheat products	1ppm

Infested grains testing 10 ppm or less for DON may be used in animal feed according to the advisory based on the species, portion of the diet and level of DON. FDA does not recommend the use of grain with levels of DON that exceed 10 ppm in animal feed.

**FDA has updated the advisory levels of DON in distiller's grains, brewer's grains, gluten and gluten meal. Ruminating beef cattle and dairy cattle over 4 months of age- 30ppm not to exceed 50% of the diet and not to exceed 10ppm in beef cattle finished feed and not to exceed 5ppm in dairy cattle finished feed.

Other grain and grain by-products (distillers dried grains, wheat, wheat middlings, other corn by-products, etc.) that may be used to produce a finished animal feed may also contribute to the level of DON in the final product. It is important to monitor all ingredients used to formulate an animal feed.

Toxin levels can increase in storage if conditions are not dry and cool. Warm, moist pockets in the grain promote mold development, causing the grain quality to deteriorate and toxin levels to increase. Aeration is important to keep the grain dry and cool. However, it should be noted that while cool temperatures, air circulation, and low moisture levels will minimize fungal growth and toxin production, these will not decrease the level of toxin that was already present in grain going into storage. DON is very stable and will not be reduced with drying.

The Department in collaboration with the FDA Philadelphia District Office will be conducting a sampling survey of finished animal feeds statewide to assess the levels of DON. The Department is requesting your assistance by alerting the Department of any elevated levels of DON with incoming ingredients, as well as any reported adverse animal effects.

Your assistance will help us monitor any emerging feed safety issue by better indicating the areas that may be at risk.

Please contact Erin Bubb, Chief, Division of Agronomic and Regional Services at 717-772-5215 or ebubb@pa.gov with any information or questions.