



December 2006

Aflatoxin Testing Facilities

Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Weather conditions have made the mold **aflatoxin** a threat to this year's corn crop. The impact of high levels of aflatoxin on producers varies from a discount in price to the requirement to destroy the grain altogether.

Aflatoxin losses are insurable as long as the grain is tested before being moved into commercial or onfarm storage, or if the insured has arranged, with the insurance provider, to leave representative areas of unharvested crop from which the adjuster can obtain samples for aflatoxin testing.

Insureds should notify their insurance agent before harvesting and/or placing harvested grain in storage if they suspect their grain contains aflatoxin. Because mold can worsen in storage, losses attributed to farm storage or that cannot be determined because proper testing was not completed, are not covered under the crop insurance policy.

Following is a list of certified testing facilities for aflatoxin in **North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut** according to the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). This is not a complete list and should only serve as a guide. To be an "approved testing facility" for crop insurance purposes, the criteria below must be met. Testing facilities not listed, which meet all the criteria below can be considered "approved testing facilities." Consult your crop insurance provider for more information.

1. The facility must be able to perform quantitative tests on grain, itemizing results in parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). Test kits used must be certified by GIPSA.
2. The facility must be a recognized commercial, government, or university testing lab that uses industry-recognized sample sizes, equipment, and procedures for testing aflatoxin.
3. The facility must be a disinterested testing facility unless RMA issues a written authorization to waive this requirement.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Food & Drug Protection Division
4000 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
919-733-7366

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

501 C Barnes Road
Chesapeake, VA 23324.
Contact: Gary Sharp
757-494-2464
FAX: 757-494-2463

For States Other Than NC & VA

Toledo Field Office
USDA/GIPSA/FGIS
1910 Indian Wood Cir., Suite 401
Maumee, OH 43537
Contact: David M. Mundwiler
419-259-6276
FAX: 419-259-7464

For further information, please contact the Raleigh Regional Office at:

United States Department of Agriculture
Risk Management Agency
Raleigh Regional Office
4407 Bland road, Suite 160
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-875-4880

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