

INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES FOR MOLD & YEAST COUNTS ON FORAGE and GRAINS

Mold Counts for ruminants

10-10,000 CFU/gr	Relatively Safe
10,000-100,000 CFU/gr	Transition Zone
100,000-1,000,000 CFU/gr	Caution Advised
Over 1,000,000	Feeding not recommended

Mold count for monogastrics

10-1,000 CFU/gr toxic mold	Relatively Safe
1,000-5,000 CFU/gr toxic mold	Transition Zone
5,000-10,000 CFU/gr toxic mold	Caution Advised
Over 10,000 CFU/gr toxic mold	Feeding not recommended

Yeast Counts

>1,000,000	On fermented feed may indicate unstable feed	
≤ 1,000,000	Ok for hay, dry corn or grain	Results: Smell
≤4,000,000-5,000,000	Ok for corn silage or haylage	Stomach upset-off feed
≤20,000,000	Ok for high moisture shell corn (HMSC)	May be able to neutralize with buffer

Mold Identification

<u>Mold</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Toxin Producer</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Penicillium</i>	Blue/Green	Yes/Ochratoxin	Several potential toxins associated with certain species. Most common toxin producer in silage.
<i>Aspergillus</i>	Yellow/Green	Yes/Aflatoxin Ochratoxin	Found in drought, heat stress conditions or insect infected fields.
<i>Fusarium</i>	Red/White/Pink	Yes/Zearalenone Vomitoxin T-2 & HT-2 Toxin Fumonisin	Common in cold, wet seasons, certain strains produce extremely potent toxins.
<i>Mucor</i>	White	Yes/Aflatoxin	High risk for bred cows to abort
<i>Rhizopus</i>	Black	No	Requires high moisture and an advanced decay mold.
<i>Cladosporium</i>	Dark Blue-Green to Gray-Black	No	Symptoms similar to yeast. Grow at low temps.