

NEOGEN NEWS Bites

The latest scoop for the pet food industry from a leader in food safety solutions



Neogen's tests for *Salmonella* in feed meet FDA draft guidance

Neogen's rapid tests meet the draft guidance for *Salmonella* in animal feed currently being considered by the FDA.

The FDA's proposed guidance for *Salmonella* in animal feed seeks to lessen the number of human illnesses linked to contact with animal feed and pet food products, to reduce the risk to the animals themselves, and to prevent vertical transmission to human food. To do so, the FDA is proposing the testing of "direct human contact animal feed" (e.g., pet food and treats, and other feeds intended to be handled by humans) for the presence of any *Salmonella*, and the testing of other animal feeds for the presence of *Salmonella* strains of known concern to specific animal species.



"Advancements in the ability to definitively trace a pathogenic outbreak to its root cause have solidified the link between animal feed and pet food contaminated with *Salmonella* and human and animal illness," said Ed Bradley, Neogen's vice president of Food Safety. "As we've proven by working with numerous worldwide food and feed industries over the years, we offer the animal feed industry not only exceptional rapid testing options, but also the expertise and experience to put the tests to their best use."

Other recommendations in the draft guidance include:

- Holding product until final test results are available.
- Consider any confirmed positive result to be valid, even if additional tests are negative.
- Validate any treatment or process used to show it adequately reduces *Salmonella* species in food.

Neogen offers the industry several testing platforms to meet varied customer needs. The company's AOAC-approved Reveal 2.0 for *Salmonella* test system greatly simplifies the *Salmonella* testing protocol by instituting comprehensive sample enrichment procedures that apply to most sample commodities. Neogen's AOAC-approved GeneQuence *Salmonella* combines the superior specificity of DNA hybridization technology with the ability to rapidly process up to 372 samples at once using a fully automated method, or a small number of samples via a non-automated approach.



Neogen also recently announced that its rapid test for *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) has been approved by AOAC and has been determined by the FDA to be equivalent to the FDA's traditional testing method in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity for detecting SE.

In its draft guidance, the FDA listed *Salmonella* strains of concern in particular animal feeds as including: poultry feed with *Salmonella pullorum*, *Salmonella gallinarum*, or *Salmonella enteritidis*; swine feed with *Salmonella choleraesuis*; sheep feed with *Salmonella abortusovis*; horse feed with *Salmonella abortusequi*; and dairy and beef feed(s) with *Salmonella newport* or *Salmonella dublin*.

Neogen's specialized pet food group is backed by unparalleled teams of experienced technical support and research and development personnel, and we offer the most comprehensive line of food and feed safety and quality testing products.

Please feel free to contact us at any time about anything that you may read in this publication, or about any safety and quality testing issue.



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Stat-Fax Reader FAQs

How do I load thermal paper into my Stat-Fax reader?

1. Start by removing the plastic paper cover, if present, from the reader by pinching the sides inwards and pulling up. Use of the paper cover is optional for holding the paper down into the printer well.

Note: Thermal paper should always be used with your Stat-Fax reader.

2. Unroll about 10 inches of paper from the new roll, and then place the roll on the table behind the reader with the paper unrolling from the bottom.
3. With scissors, cut the end of the paper diagonally to create a clean, angled edge. Ragged or wrinkled paper is difficult to load and could cause a paper jam.
4. After creating the angled edge, feed it through from the back and along the top of the metal guide in the printer paper well.
5. Once you've threaded through slightly more than an inch of paper, press the PAPER key several times to automatically feed the paper the rest of the way through the printer until it comes up through the paper slot in front.
6. If the paper fails to load, cut a new angled edge before attempting to load the paper again.



Once the paper feeds successfully through, place the roll of paper into the printer well, re-spooling any loose paper as you do.

7. Replace printer cover.



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Testing Tips

Limiting extraction process variability can improve consistency of results

Grain testers can be justifiably frustrated when sample test results do not consistently reflect the actual level of mycotoxin contamination in a load of grain.

While the largest source of variability in any mycotoxin testing program has been repeatedly shown to be in the sampling process, the extraction process can also be a source of variability.

Before testing can be performed, any toxin present must be extracted from the grain sample. This is done by mixing the grain with a liquid (deionized water or methanol) and shaking it for a set period of time. With test results as low as parts per billion, the consistent use of a precise ratio of solid grain sample to liquid extraction solution is critical to producing consistently accurate results.

Typically, grain is weighed using a digital analytical scale. The scale should be calibrated at least annually to ensure consistent results. (Because some of these scales are so sensitive, +/- 0.1 g is considered acceptable.)

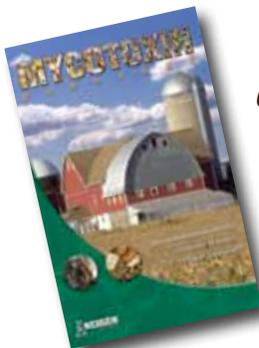


The liquid portion is measured with a graduated cylinder, making small adjustments until the desired quantity is achieved. Unfortunately, using this method can introduce variability into the process.

Some tips to reduce variability include:

- Use methanol pumps, or other equipment that delivers precise liquid quantities and can be calibrated to ensure accuracy.
- Check your liquid dispenser by dispensing into a graduated cylinder for a quick reading, instead of dispensing directly into an extraction cup.
- Periodically check your scales' accuracy with brass standards and perform annual calibrations.

As usual, feel free to contact Neogen at any time for more on this topic, or with any question or concern.



Our **Mycotoxin Handbook** is available free of charge. Please contact us today and receive regular updates as close and convenient as your inbox: foodsafety@neogen.com or **800/234-5333**



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