

NEOGEN

## NEWS Bites

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

## Continual awareness of mycotoxins important

**Matt Nichols***Account manager, Neogen's pet food division*

This year's corn harvest will soon be upon us. For many in the major corn-producing areas, conditions are opposite what they were last year.

Before discussing this year, it's important to recap the past season. Last year saw severe drought conditions throughout a significant area of the Corn Belt. The drought was characterized as the worst drought in almost two decades and **these conditions were conducive to aflatoxin formation**. In fact, aflatoxin was so prevalent that six states **received special permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to blend down high aflatoxin corn**. This decision had a ripple effect—the high aflatoxin levels caused many pet food and ingredient companies to be on alert and remain extra vigilant throughout the year.



Although the new crop will be harvested soon and conditions are different than last year in many areas, extra care still is required to keep out the high aflatoxin corn that still may be around from last year's crop. Additionally, there are some areas of the country that still have experienced drought this year, meaning some of this year's corn crop may also have aflatoxin. For example, the following states are at high risk of aflatoxin given the continuing drought: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Colorado and possibly areas of Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. Because of the risk that last year's corn crop is still in the system and possible aflatoxin corn from this harvest, pet food companies need to do everything to ensure against accepting aflatoxin-contaminated corn.

This begins with understanding the higher risk areas and sourcing corn from lower risk areas, if possible. Identifying high and low risk areas can be done using **Neogen's mycotoxin incidence maps**. Preventing the inclusion of aflatoxin-contaminated corn also consists of monitoring suppliers and avoiding those whose shipments have been consistently rejected. Another common practice is to monitor those suppliers with a history of rejected loads more thoroughly, including testing individual grain probes and having a more sensitive rejection threshold.



Selecting a representative sample is extremely critical in obtaining accurate results and the recommended practice is to follow guidelines from the **U.S. Department of Agriculture Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration/Federal Grain Inspection Service**. After a representative sample is selected, it is impor-

tant to grind a large enough sample to reduce sample variability. Generally, a two to three pound sample from trucks should be ground and this can be easily and rapidly done with an appropriate grinder.

Next, it is important to extract a large enough



sample and to consistently shake the extraction container. For example, extracting a larger sample is preferred over a small sample (e.g., 10 grams versus 5 grams). Neogen also recommends using a mechanical shaker to ensure a consistent extraction.

Finally, following all recommended test procedures including good pipetting practices is essential to obtaining a result that is accurate.

**New pipettors available!** Neogen now carries the durable MLA pipettors. These are fixed pipettors at 100  $\mu$ L (Neogen item 9290) and 500  $\mu$ L (Neogen item 9291) and also are able to eject tips after use.

Please contact your sales representative for more information.

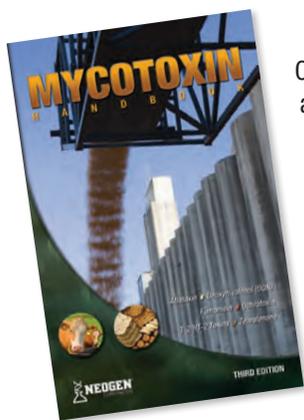


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## We have your mycotoxin solutions.

Neogen offers an array of mycotoxin test kits to detect aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol (DON), fumonisin, ochratoxin, T-2/HT-2 toxins, and zearalenone. Each provides results in minutes, and requires only a minimal amount of training and equipment.

- **Reveal Q+ for Aflatoxin** provides precise results ranging from 2 to 150 parts per billion (ppb) after only six minutes and a simple ethanol extraction. The test is approved for use in the national grain inspection system by the USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).  
*Reveal Q+ for Aflatoxin is also available with a water-based extraction.*
- **Reveal Q+ for DON** delivers results ranging from 0.3 to 6 parts per million (ppm) after only three minutes and a simple water extraction. The test also has GIPSA approval.
- **Reveal Q+ for Zearalenone** provides results ranging from 50 to 1,200 ppb in corn and 25 to 1,200 ppb of the toxin in wheat after only six minutes and an ethanol extraction. Reveal Q+ for Zearalenone is GIPSA approved.
- **Reveal Q+ for Fumonisin** delivers quantitative results ranging from 0.3 to 6 ppm after a simple ethanol extraction. Reveal Q+ for Fumonisin also is GIPSA approved.
- **Reveal Q+ for T-2/HT-2 Toxins** delivers precise results ranging from 50 to 600 ppb after six minutes and a water extraction.
- **Reveal Q+ for Ochratoxin** provides quantitative results ranging from 2 to 20 ppb after only nine minutes.



Our **Mycotoxin Handbook** is available free of charge. Contact us at [foodsafety@neogen.com](mailto:foodsafety@neogen.com) for a complimentary copy.



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## FDA releases color additive guidelines



In order to help pet food manufacturers comply with color additive guidelines, the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released a new guidance document.

The document outlines common questions and answers surrounding the guidelines as well as background information.

Manufacturers must change animal food labels to ensure color additives are appropriately listed in the ingredients by November 18, 2013 when the rule goes into effect. The final rule was first published in November 2011. The rule affects all businesses that make "animal food products containing color additives" as well as "all color additives required to be listed" under FDA's certification process, [according to FDA](#).

Color additives that are exempt from certification typically are those that come from plants or minerals, FDA notes.

The new document seeks to [clarify the rule](#). It is available [here](#).



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