

Linwood | Heidelberg | Wroxeter | Mitchell
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Notice: Jones Feed Mills will be closed Monday, February 18 for Family Day

Toxins and Beef Cattle Article by Patricia Dunn, JFM Market Support Specialist

A common concern on farms this year is toxins in corn. Mycotoxins are naturally occurring compounds found in corn and are produced by some types of molds in the field or in storage. There are several types of mycotoxins including: aflatoxin, vomitoxin (DON), zearalenone and T-2.

Often, we hear about toxins causing reproductive and lactation problems in dairy and gastrointestinal problems in swine, but rarely do we hear about how toxins affect beef cattle. Generally, ruminants are more resistant to the effects of toxins because of the degrading effects of the rumen. Cattle can usually tolerate a relatively high level of DON, but DON is often an indicator of other toxins, which are more concerning. The most noticeable symptoms seen as a result of high mycotoxin levels in feed are: reduced feed intakes, diarrhea, poor gains, poor carcass quality, poor immune function and even death in extreme cases (*see below chart for references*). This means, in the presence of toxins, cattle will take more feed and time to reach market weight, and there may be more health problems in the barn.

When purchasing corn products this year, it is important to check the level of mycotoxins. It is important to note that the concentration of toxins is much higher in corn by-products, such as distillers. High toxin corn can be found for a good price; however, the negative effects of that corn may result in higher production costs. If corn products have already been purchased, or there is corn on the farm, and toxin levels are unknown, samples can be collected and sent to the lab for toxin analysis.

If toxins are found on farm, management strategies can be implemented. For example, toxin-binding products can be added to the ration to help mitigate the effects of toxins. Essentially, toxin-binders attach to mycotoxins like a glove, preventing mycotoxins from being absorbed by the animal. Additionally, dilution of high toxin corn products with other low toxin feedstuffs are key to minimizing the impact of high toxin corn. If there are concerns of toxins on the farm this year, do not hesitate to talk to a member the JFM sales team to help prevent problems before they start.

Mycotoxin	Concern Level (ppm)	Level Harmful to Cattle (ppm)	Effects
Aflatoxin	0.02	0.02 – 0.33	↓ feed intakes, ↓ immunity, liver implications, ↓ performance
Vomitoxin (DON)	0.56	5 – 12	Feed refusals, diarrhea, weight loss, ↓ performance
Zearalenone	0.56	5.6 – 10	↓ birth weights, abortions
T-2	0.25	0.7 – 1.5	Displaced abomasum, diarrhea, digestive tract damage

FUTURES

January 31, 2019

Live Cattle

(\$/CWT)



Feb	165.70
April	168.20
June	154.60
Aug	149.84

Dressed Hogs

(\$/CKG)



Feb	141.40
April	153.16
May	168.05
June	187.37

Canadian Dollar \$ 1.31

Source: farms.com

On the Calendar!

Feb 1-3- Deal or No Deal- Beef Edition Sale*- Troy

Feb 18- Family Day- ALL JFM Locations CLOSED

Feb 19- Cattleman's College- Delta by Marriott, Toronto

Feb 20-21- BFO AGM*- Delta by Marriott, Toronto

Feb 21- Southwestern Ontario Dairy Symposium- Woodstock

Feb 26 - JFM Dairy Producer Meeting*- Elmira Lions Hall, Elmira

Mar 2- Waterloo County Holstein Club Car Tour- Waterloo County

*JFM Sponsored or Exhibiting Event

***** Thank-you for keeping your lane and yard clear of snow and ice! *****

You're Invited...



Dairy Producer Meeting

"Calf College ~ Ensuring a Profitable Future"

Tuesday February 26th at Elmira Lions Hall, Elmira ON

40 South Street West, Elmira, ON

10:00AM to 2:30PM

Presenters:

Tana Dennis PhD & Dennis Wood, Calf and Heifer Specialists, Provimi North America

Tom Gutteridge, DVM, Associate Manager - Veterinary Services, Zoetis Canada Inc.

Lisa Zielemann, Calf Specialist, Jones Feed Mills Ltd.

Roast Beef Lunch Provided!

RSVP by Feb 22 by calling 1-800-265-8735 or talk to your JFM Dairy Sales Consultant

Rides to and from meeting available upon request



New Mill Update

The new George Robert Jones Bulk Production Plant is progressing well (35% complete) and is on schedule. The photo below shows the bin hoppers are beginning to be installed as well as preparations are underway for the placing of concrete blocks for the north wall. JFM salutes the contractors and their staff for braving the intense winter weather and for keeping everything on schedule!



Performance or Maintenance?

With the harsh and variable weather we have had this winter, feeding horses for performance can be a challenge. Be sure to talk to **Sarah Stewart** to get the best advice! 519-577-3692.



Bins for Sale

- 15-20 tonne capacity
 - Good for corn, grains, pellets
 - Approx. 9'9" tall. Various sizes
 - JFM will load on your truck/wagon
- Contact Meaghan Weber at the Mill
1-800-265-8735 meaghan@jfm.ca

New Fact Sheets on Toxins

Need more information on toxins in feed? Jones Feed Mills has recently produced a series of new fact sheets outlining the effects of toxins in dairy and beef cattle as well as swine. Talk to the JFM sales team or call the office to get your copy



www.jfm.ca | 1-800-265-8735

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