



Alltech®
MYCOTOXIN
MANAGEMENT

REMOVING THE GUESSWORK WITH RAPIREAD

HOW ALLTECH'S RAPIREAD™ SYSTEM ALLOWS ONE OF OUR CANADIAN TERRITORY MANAGERS TO MAKE ACCURATE INITIAL MYCOTOXIN DIAGNOSIS



Alltech® MYCOTOXIN MANAGEMENT

Look, listen, zero in and test appropriately – this is the approach Brent Corrigan, Territory Sales and Support Manager for Eastern and Central Ontario, takes when he’s assessing a farm for mycotoxin feed risk.

While Brent’s client portfolio includes a significant amount of work with Alltech’s Masterfeeds animal nutrition company in Ontario, the bulk of his day-to-day responsibilities is providing consultant support and sales directly to dairy farmers and their feed advisors with herd sizes ranging from 50 to 100 milking cows.

“A lot of my job is looking and testing for issues on farms and presenting a solution to help fix whatever the situation may be,” explains Brent. “Along with manure screening to analyse rumen digestion, mycotoxin management is one of the most important services I provide.”

“These weather conditions have led to an increased number of mycotoxins in harvests this fall.”

Homegrown feedstuffs in eastern Ontario are mainly forage based, consisting of corn silage and haylage. However, many dairy farms depend on purchased commodities for rations, which vary from dry and high moisture corn, dry corn distiller’s grains and soya bean meal.

“Historically, the biggest culprits of mycotoxins have been purchased commodities,” says Brent. “But we have had a record-breaking summer for rainfall, with greater than 800mm (48.81 in) of rain from April to October, and thus, we are seeing increased T2 and vomitoxin (DON) come up in corn silage and haylage samples.

Most corn went into the ground late during planting because the ground was so saturated, and the weather was very cool and wet at silking time. These same weather conditions have led to an increased number of mycotoxins in harvests this fall.”

ALLTECH RAPIREAD'S ROLE IN ON-FARM ANALYSIS

This environmentally driven increase of mycotoxin prevalence in forage feedstuffs and commodities have been part of a repeated scenario that plays out time and time again for Brent.

“A few months ago, I had a case where a herd was working with a vet clinic trying to figure out why their early fresh cows (recently calved) were having performance issues. Cows weren't adequately holding body condition and milk production was decreasing,” says Brent.

“By the time I was called to the farm to take samples of the feedstuffs, I had missed the 37+ sample mail deadline, which meant it could be a week and a half before I had test results back.”

An integral part of the RAPIREAD system are the handheld mycotoxin test kits, able to identify the presence of Aflatoxin, Ochratoxin, Zearalenone, DON, T2/HT-2 Toxins and Fumonisin in under 10 minutes. Having just completed training for these new test kits, Brent decided to use it to test elements of the TMR samples.

“The new readers were able to confirm the presence of mycotoxins in the feed, allowing me to accurately prescribe a mycotoxin binder to the farm, to mitigate risk while complete TMR samples were run through the more comprehensive 37+ test program, which can identify more than 40 different mycotoxins.”

As it turned out, when the 37+ results came back a week later, the farm's feed had an additional five that the handheld readers couldn't pick up.

“Because we knew mycotoxins were present through our on-farm testing and as the farmer had started using a binder in the feed, cows were already performing better when the 37+ results came in,” explains Brent. “So, it was just a matter of making some tweaks to the diet and feed management once we had the final results.”



GOOD FOR BUSINESS

For Brent, the quick turnaround time the new handheld readers offer is invaluable to the way he does business.

“It takes a lot of the guess work out of my job while waiting on 37+ results – 10 days is a long time for a farm to wait with cows that are having issues. In return, this has given my customers’ greater confidence in Alltech’s products and services,” explains Brent. “It also saves a lot of time and resources. Because the readers pick up the most common mycotoxins, I can use it to determine that samples even have mycotoxin issues before sending it off for 37+ analysis.”

To find out more about Alltech’s RAPIREAD testing system, or to arrange a field test, visit www.knowmycotoxins.com



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