

Protect your herd with silage hygiene testing



Hygienic feed is free of pathogens, mold, and mycotoxins. These contaminants reduce the nutritional value of silage and can cause digestive disorders that result in productivity issues.

Pathogens:

- Gaps in management practices are the primary cause of pathogens in silage.
- Clostridial growth is promoted by high moisture levels, soil contamination, and insufficient drop in pH which can be caused by a variety of mis-management practices.
- Bacterial contamination from Coliform, E. Coli, and Enterobacteriaceae is primarily caused by manure contamination through in-field fertilization and equipment that is used for both feed and manure handling.
- Risks can be mitigated by following silage management best practices, maintaining cleanliness of feed alleys, waterers, bunks, and feed equipment, and ensuring that equipment used for soil or manure handling is not used for feed.

Yeast, mold & mycotoxins:

Crops damaged by flooding, hail, drought, or pests are vulnerable to yeast and mold growth, and subsequent mycotoxin production. Both yeast and mold growth increase during the aerobic phase of ensiling, which can further promote mycotoxin production if conditions remain favorable. Yeast typically grows first, causing heating and depleting much of the crop's digestible nutrients. Harvesting the crop too dry, poor compaction or chop length, slow filling, and not covering the silo all increase the susceptibility for yeast and mold growth during ensiling. Visible mold is not a reliable indicator of mycotoxin contamination, and an increase in mold growth does not necessarily correlate with higher mycotoxin levels.

When to suspect a silage hygiene issue:

If you notice a putrid smell, slimy texture, dark discoloration, visible mold, or heating in your silage, contamination may be present. Feeding compromised silage can lead to reduced intake and production as well as serious health concerns in livestock.

Available analyses include (3 to 5-day turnaround time):

Bacteria testing	Price
Total clostridia	\$60.00
C. perfringens	\$60.00
Coliform/E. Coli	\$30.00
Enterobacteriaceae	\$30.00
Mold & yeast	
Count	\$35.00
Mold Count & ID	\$49.00
Mycotoxins	
Basic package (13 mycotoxins)	\$175.00
Select package (17 mycotoxins)	\$230.00
Complete package (22 mycotoxins)	\$300.00

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