

July 2009 Service Bulletin

Wheat Harvest

Vomitoxin (DON) Testing: The cool nighttime temperatures of this past spring may have hindered the development of Fusarium head blight infection in winter wheat. However, as summer heat returns, moist conditions may lead to the presence of Fusarium; which does not always lead to the occurrence of vomitoxin (DON). Laboratory analysis can confirm and measure the accumulation of this mycotoxin.



Soil/Manure Testing: The post-wheat harvest period is an opportune time to extract soil samples. Where manure application is planned, soil test data combined with manure analysis will aid management decisions; allowing growers to fine-tune application rates of both manure and commercial fertilizer to adequately meet the needs of the 2010 corn crop.

Agri-Food Laboratories offers a wide range of soil analysis and custom soil sampling options. Soil sampling can be booked at sampling@agtest.com or 1-888-868-SOIL (7645).

First Cut Forage Summary:

Most of the harvest has been completed for the first cutting and results from the samples received are variable. Harvesting seemed to follow maturity grade from south-south west to north-north east. Fields cut on the last week of May into the first week of June, indicated very good nutritional quality, although yield suffered. Protein was 20-21%, ADF was 29-32% and NDF was 38-42%. Lignin was low.

Inclement weather delayed harvest and the next opportunity to cut occurred near mid June. With ample moisture and heat, the rate at which plants grew and matured increased. Grasses were soon in head and alfalfa in bud to bloom. Nutritionally in many cases there was a significant reduction in the quality of many samples. The results were very dependant on the composition of the stands, grass versus alfalfa ratio. The samples containing a significant amount of grass have shown low protein, low lignin, and low calcium.

Because most of the samples received were taken prior to the completion of fermentation, few digestibility numbers are available. The next round of sampling will give a better indication of this.



Pricing Adjustment:

Our goal at Agri-Food Laboratories is to ensure that the highest standard of quality, reliability and service is provided. We scrutinize all internal processes to reduce operational costs and minimize unnecessary price adjustments. Regrettably we have reached a time when an average price adjustment of 3.5% is required to maintain our level of quality and service that we have provided over the years, effective July 1, 2009.

To obtain the new pricelist, please visit our website, or contact the lab.

Agri-Food Laboratories is chosen more often by industry leaders for analytical quality, knowledge, integrity, innovation and service.