

## Deoxynivalenol (DON) or Vomitoxin in Animal Feeds

Deoxynivalenol (DON), commonly called vomitoxin, is produced by several molds of the genus *Fusarium* which causes pink scab disease in wheat. DON is sometimes found in wheat grown under normal weather conditions; however, the fungus thrives in cool, wet conditions. Swine are the livestock species most sensitive to DON, which can cause reduced feed intake or feed refusal at higher contamination levels in feed.

The advisory levels (note these are not action levels) listed below were established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) according to species and animal age are used for addressing DON/vomitoxin levels.

### Advisory levels for total vomitoxin in livestock feed\*

Class of Animal	Feed	Maximum Vomitoxin Level
Ruminating beef and feedlot cattle older than 4 months of age	Grain & grain by-products not to exceed 50% of the diet	10 ppm
Chickens	Grain & grain by-products not to exceed 50% of the diet	10 ppm
Swine	Grain & grain by-products not to exceed 20% of the diet	5 ppm
All other animals	Grain & grain by-products not to exceed 40% of the diet	5 ppm

\*Taken from "Guidance for Industry and FDA: Advisory Levels for Deoxynivalenol (DON) in Finished Wheat Products for Human Consumption and Grains and Grain By-Products used for Animal Feed", Issued June 29, 2010 which can be accessed at:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/UCM217558.pdf>

For additional information, consult the University of Kentucky Extension publications ID-121, "Fumonisin, Vomitoxin, and Other Mycotoxins in Corn Produced by *Fusarium* Fungi" which is available through the UK Extension publication website (<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs.asp>).