



September 24, 2012

The Honorable David Daniels  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
8995 East Main St.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399

Dear Director Daniels:

As you know, Ohio's corn crop has suffered significant losses this year due to extreme weather conditions, including the worst drought in more than 20 years. As harvest has started, it has come to our attention that there are concerns about potential aflatoxin contamination in the new corn crop.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has established guidelines for acceptable aflatoxin levels in corn based on its intended use. Corn containing aflatoxin in concentrations of greater than 20 parts per billion (ppb) cannot be used for human consumption and cannot be used for feed for dairy animals or for immature livestock of others species. Corn containing aflatoxin at 100 ppb or less can be used for breeding cattle and swine and mature poultry. Corn with 200 ppb or less can be used for finishing swine greater than 100 lbs. in weight and corn with 300 ppb or less can be used for finishing beef cattle.

We are respectfully requesting that the Ohio Department of Agriculture ask the FDA for permission to blend corn containing more than 20 ppb of aflatoxin with corn having lower levels or no aflatoxin for animal feed. This allows the corn to be safely fed to livestock pursuant to the FDA's long-standing guidelines. Ohio would not be alone in making this request; Iowa and Nebraska have both requested a waiver, with Iowa's request being granted last week. The American Feed Industry Association supports the idea of a waiver as well.

In a year where corn yields are already diminished due to drought conditions, we want to ensure the limited supply of corn on hand is available for feeding livestock. We appreciate all the department has done to help ease the effects of this summer's drought. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher Henney  
President & CEO

COPY: OABA Board of Directors  
OABA Public Policy Committee