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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Flooding and Animal Food Safety

As I write this on Tuesday morning the continued forecast for rain seems to not want to let up. I was hoping once September was over it might stop for a few days, but checking cattle on the 4 wheeler on Monday evening I got soaked AGAIN. Yes, the sun was shining and out of nowhere came a 5 minute pour down. Then it sprinkled during the morning feeding this morning. And as I was ready to email this to the newspapers as the noon bell rings on the courthouse, I could hear rain hitting the roof.

I am not sure how much rain fell in all parts of Adams County or surrounding counties, but I have a neighbor who records it daily. While Cincinnati TV weather is reporting over 6 inches for September and that ranks as one of the top 6 wettest Septembers, the Eskew recorded rainfall for September was over 13.5 inches as of September 26 when the rain was to be over. Yes it rained most of the day on September 27, too.

With this said, rainfall in some areas of the county may top that. Some crops were damaged by flood waters and some may have had back water that may have done more damage than it appears. The following from Jon.Scheid addresses some of the issues that those crops may be dealing with.

Crops harvested from flooded land should be tested for contaminants, but unfortunately will typically be found unacceptable for feed use. The rules drafted by the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine for dealing with crops where fields were flooded are not new, but we want to remind you of them now because of the vast amount of farmland under floodwaters in the Southeast.

Floodwaters from storms can contain sewage, disease-causing organisms, pesticides, chemical wastes, or other toxic substances. Mold growth is another serious problem. If animals consume feed that has mold on it, sometimes toxins from that mold can also get into food derived from the animals and cause illness in people.

At a minimum, the crops harvested from flooded fields should be tested for these contaminants:

- Mycotoxins, including aflatoxin, fumonisin, vomitoxin, zearalenone, and ochratoxin.
  - For more information about acceptable aflatoxin levels, see [aflatoxin guidance](#).
  - For more information about fumonisin levels, see [fumonisin guidance](#)
  - For more information about another mycotoxins, deoxynivalenol (DON), see [deoxynivalenol guidance](#)
  - (For guidance about vomitoxin, zearalenone, and ochratoxin, contact FDA [AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov) or 240-402-7002.)
- Heavy metals, specifically cadmium, mercury, and lead.
- Certain disease-causing bacteria, especially *Salmonella*, *E.coli* O157:H7, *Clostridium perfringens*, and *botulinum*.
- Chemicals, such as pesticides, with particular emphasis on organophosphate and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides.



FDA can consider diversions of crops from human food uses to animal feed uses, and in most cases the diversion involves a different standard for filth in animal food, compared with human food. The requests should be submitted in writing to the public affairs specialist in your area FDA [Public Affairs Officers](#), and the request should include this information:

- Name and address of requestor
- Precise physical location of the product
- The precise identity of the products
- Why the products are considered adulterated
- Level of adulterant, and all analytical data regarding levels of adulterant, and the methods used to determine the levels
- The cause of the adulteration
- The name and address of consignee
- The reconditioning or denaturing procedure, if any
- Proposed labeling
- Special restrictions
- The intended use of the diverted food
- All available information from the firm proposing the diversion on the safety of the adulterant for the intended animal use and any information about the use of food derived from the animals
- Information sufficient to determine whether disposition of such an article, including packaging, will result in toxic substance release into the environment

More information is available in a Compliance Policy Guide Sec. 675.200 “Diversion of Adulterated Food to Acceptable Animal Feed Use”

(<https://www.fda.gov/ICECI/ComplianceManuals/CompliancePolicyGuidanceManual/ucm074694.htm>).

If you have any questions about these rules or other feed related topics, please contact the Center for Veterinary Medicine at [AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov) or 240-402-7002.

## **Producer Training – Market Ready**

Individuals interested in selling their locally produced food through various market channels. Those who want to explore ways to improve their sales skills and business relationships, and those who are considering or are just developing a new food business. A day long training covering sale of locally produced foods to: Restaurants, Grocers, Wholesalers, and Direct to Consumers. The program is designed to educate local food producers to help them evaluate and navigate various market channels; teach local food producers how to establish an effective business strategy to effectively reach their target markets; include practical information on how to approach and interact with various market channels; and key business functions included are the differing needs for different market channels; invoicing, ordering, insurance needs, packaging and much more.

## **Dates to Remember**

October 15 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon.

October 25 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m. Call 393-3424 to register prior to the event. Meal starts an hour prior.