Wealthier farms and *Healthier* milk
WITHOUT AFLATOXINS

What are aflatoxins?

- Aflatoxins are invisible toxic substances produced by molds that grows in foods and feeds kept in humid and hot places.
- Aflatoxins can be found in commercial as well as home made feeds.
- Milking cows transfer aflatoxins into the milk and drinking a lot of milk with aflatoxins is not good for health.

How does aflatoxin get to my farm?

- If animal feeds are not properly stored they can have aflatoxins.
- Aflatoxins can also be found in commercial as well as home made feeds (especially seed cakes and concentrates).

How to avoid aflatoxins?

- Always dry your grains well before storage protected from moisture and animals, and raised from the ground.
- Use the GLASS JAR TEST to see that crops are well dried and ready for storage (please refer to the back page).
- Make sure not to eat foods that are moldy or have been improperly stored.
- Give your milking cows and young animals feeds that are not moldy and that are stored in a dry, cool place and safe from pests.

Why avoid aflatoxin?

- If animals eat aflatoxins, they produce less milk and grow less.
- Drinking milk is good for people, and specially for children. But if milk contains high levels of aflatoxins it could be bad for health. Ensure safer milk in your farm by feeding aflatoxin-free feed to your cows.
- Humans should NOT eat food that is moldy or stored improperly since it is bad for health and can cause cancer.

Salt jar testing

For this test you need: common salt and dry, clean glass jars with lid.

Add salt to the glass and check that the salt does not stick to the glass, in that case the jar is not dry enough. Then add the grains, close the lid and shake the jar for 10 minutes.

If the salt sticks to the side of the jar, then the grains are not dry enough to be stored.

Contact

Johanna Lindahl
Scientist, Veterinary Epidemiologist
J.Lindahl@cgiar.org

Silvia Alonso Alvarez
Senior Scientist, Epidemiologist
s.alonso@cgiar.org