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For Immediate Release:

Aflatoxin Levels in Feed Corn May Be OnThe Rise Idaho State Department of Agriculture notifies feed manufacturers and livestock producers of potential risks

Boise - Due to the difficult weather in the Corn Belt this past summer, the 2012 corn crop is at risk for high levels of aflatoxin. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is encouraging feed manufacturers and livestock producers to be aware of potential high levels of aflatoxin in corn, corn products and distillers grains.

Aflatoxin is a toxic compound produced by certain species of fungi. Aflatoxin-contaminated feed can result in reduced feed intake, reduced production, reduced fertility and depressed immune response in livestock, even if clinical symptoms of toxicity are not present. The effects are greater on younger animals.

ISDA is working to ensure that corn and corn products purchased this fall are fed safely. Agency representatives are available for consultation, sampling and testing to assist feed manufacturers, distributors and livestock producers should questions arise about aflatoxin levels in feed.

ISDA recommends that purchasers of corn and corn products targeted for use as feed request proof that each load of corn has been tested using USDA Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) methods to verify that aflatoxin levels are appropriate for targeted animal species. It is recommended that the analysis be performed within 15 days of product shipment; storage conditions should be monitored to ensure that mycotoxin levels do not increase in storage.

ISDA has the ability to sample and analyze feed for a number of mycotoxins, including aflatoxin, and will monitor levels of mycotoxins through sampling in the marketplace.

For more information, contact Lloyd Knight, Plant Division Administrator, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, at 208-332-8664 or Lloyd.knight@agri.idaho.gov

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