Weather conditions may make vomitoxin a threat to this year’s wheat crop. High levels of vomitoxin may result in either a discount in price or the requirement to destroy the grain.

Vomitoxin [Deoxynivalenol (DON)] is a naturally occurring mycotoxin produced by several species of fusarium mold. Wet and cool weather from flowering time to maturity promotes infection, resulting in scab or head blight in barley, wheat, oats, and rye.

Mycotoxins at high enough levels in production are considered a substance or condition that can be injurious to human or animal health. More information on mycotoxins, including vomitoxin, can be found at: Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

If you carry crop insurance policies subsidized and reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation [as overseen by the Risk Management Agency (RMA)], you may be eligible for quality loss adjustments if the reason for the loss in value is due to a covered event such as the excessive precipitation received this spring.

To protect your rights under your policy, it is imperative that you always report any damage within the required timeframes and seek advice from your insurance company before proceeding with harvest or destruction of the damaged crop. Failure to do so may jeopardize your claim. Crop insurance policies require that you notify your company within 72 hours of noticing a loss. It is important that you be proactive in checking your fields to determine if there is any damage to the crop before harvest.

For production containing a substance or condition that is injurious to human or animal health, such as vomitoxin, RMA has established procedures for calculating a Reduction in Value (RIV). Those procedures are outlined in Section C of the Special Provisions of Insurance in your county, which can be found in RMA’s Actuarial Information Browser. Section C includes discount factors for vomitoxins in the range of 0.1 to 10.0 parts per million, and RIV procedures for levels greater than 10.0 ppm. It is very important that you work with your insurance provider if you believe you have quality losses on your wheat.

The quality adjustments made on the production are based on samples obtained by the adjuster or other disinterested parties authorized by the insurance provider, such as an elevator employee. Harvested and delivered production samples taken from each conveyance and then blended may be accepted under certain conditions. It should be noted that samples you submitted for testing cannot be used for quality adjustment. In addition, insurance companies are not to pull samples and then allow the producers to maintain the samples until they can pick them at a later time to submit to an approved testing facility. Only the insurance provider or a trained and approved disinterested third party can maintain and submit the samples for testing.

Appropriate samples must be obtained before the production entered commercial storage. However, for farm-stored production contaminated with vomitoxin only, samples may be obtained from the storage structure. Analysis of the samples pulled by the insurance provider (or trained and approved disinterested third party) must be performed by an approved testing facility. Samples submitted for testing will be dictated by the facility, including its recommendations for storage and transportation.

To be an "approved testing facilities,” for crop insurance purposes, the following criteria must be
met:

- The facility must be able to perform quantitative tests on grain, itemizing results in parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). Test kits used must be certified by GIPSA;
- The facility must be a recognized commercial, government, or university testing lab that uses industry-recognized sample sizes, equipment, and procedures for testing vomitoxin; and
- The facility must be a disinterested testing facility unless RMA issues a written authorization to waive this requirement.

The following is a list of certified testing facilities for vomitoxin in the Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska according to GIPSA. This is not a complete list and should only serve as a guide. Consult with your insurance company for more information.

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
3800 NW 14th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66618
(785) 233-7935

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
1111 West 4th, Unit A
Concordia, Kansas 66901
Telephone: (785) 243-6171
Fax: 785-243-5084

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
1407 East Trail
Dodge City, Kansas 67801
Telephone: (620) 225-4931
Fax: 620-225-4947

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
1401 Fairfax Traffic Way Bldg. E400
Kansas City, Kansas 66115
Telephone: (913) 371-4420

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
863 West 29th Street North
Wichita, Kansas 67204
Telephone: (316) 832-1272
Fax: (316) 832-1372

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
4600 East 64th Avenue
PO Box 1234
Commerce City, Colorado 80022
Telephone: (303) 853-9646

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
P.O. Box 721
517 13th Avenue
Sidney, Nebraska 69162
Telephone: (308) 254-3975
Fax: (308) 254-2782

**Kansas Grain Inspection Service**
900 East 4th Street
Colby, Kansas 67701
Telephone: (785) 462-8347
Fax: (785) 462-3719

**Missouri Department of Agriculture**
718 US Hwy 61
New Madrid, Missouri 63869
Telephone: (573) 748-5526

**Missouri Department of Agriculture**
521 East Florence Road
St. Joseph, Missouri 64504
Telephone: (816) 238-5658

**Missouri Department of Agriculture**
615 Cherokee, Suite 4B
P.O. Box 596
Marshall, Missouri 65340
Telephone: (660) 886-5549

**Cairo Grain Inspection Agency**
4007 Sycamore Street
Cairo, Illinois 62914
Telephone: 618) 734-0689
Fax: (660) 886-7815
Fremont Grain Inspection
603 East Dodge Street
Fremont, Nebraska 68025
Telephone: (402) 721-1270

Hasting Grain Inspection, Inc.
306 East Park Street
Hasting, Nebraska 68901
Telephone: (402) 462-4254

Lincoln Inspection Service
505 Garfield Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502
Telephone: (402) 435-4386

Central and Northeast Missouri
Marshall Service Point
615 Cherokee Street Suite #4B
Marshall, Missouri 65340
Telephone: (660) 886-5549

Northwest and Western Missouri
St. Joseph Service Point
521 Florence Road
St. Joseph, Missouri 64504
Telephone: (816) 238-5658
Fax: (816) 238-6519

Omaha Grain Inspection
2525 South 13th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68108-1521
Telephone: (402) 341-6739

Keokuk Grain Inspection Service
2626 Belmont Road
Keokuk, Iowa 52632
Telephone: (319) 524-6482

Vet Med Diagnostic Lab
University of Missouri-College of Veterinary Science
1600 East Rollins Street
Columbia, Missouri 65205
(800) 862-8635

Sioux City Inspection & Weighing Svc
840 Clark Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Telephone: (712) 255-8073

Additional vomitoxin testing service providers can be found at the GIPSA Service Provider webpage.

Contact Us
USDA/Risk Management Agency
Topeka Regional Office
2641 SW Wanamaker Rd., Suite 201
Topeka, Kansas 66614-4971
Telephone: (785) 228-5512
Fax: (785) 228-1456
E-mail: rsoks@rma.usda.gov

Download Copies from the Web
Visit our online publications/fact sheets page at: www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/ks_rso/.

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